

THE DIVISION OF DAKOTA.

Much can be said in favor of the division of Dakota and but little against it.

Dakota contains 150,932 square miles, while New York has but 47,000; Pennsylvania but 46,000; and Ohio but 39,964. It is therefore larger than all of these, with Massachusetts, 7,800; Rhode Island, 1,306; Connecticut, 4,750; and Delaware 2,120. thrown in. It is large enough to make two states, each of which will be larger than New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware and New Hampshire.

Its percentage of waste land is less than that of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania or any of the eastern or New England states.

Almost every township in the territory is excellent farming land, excepting a small portion of the Black Hills, and the bad lands along the Little Missouri and Sheyenne and White rivers; and even in these regions the land is all valuable for grazing or for its minerals.

Dakota is capable in all of its parts of sustaining a dense population and will be in time as well settled as Illinois or Iowa.

The coteaus which occupy so great a space on the map, like the great American desert, are a myth, so far as their objectionable features are concerned. They form the watershed, it is true, between the Missouri and James rivers, but even here the percentage of waste land is less than it is in many of the richest portions of New York or Pennsylvania. The coteaus are high, rolling prairie, with occasional gravel knolls, but even here the grass is heavy and nutritious, the country well watered and the soil strong and deep. The famous Steele farm with the excellent country surrounding it, and its broad acres of grain; the Troy farm with its herds of sheep are in that portion of north Dakota formerly supposed to be the bad lands, and now put down on the maps as the Plateau du Coteau du Missouri.

Division is proposed on the forty-sixth parallel, giving to north Dakota a territory 350 miles long by 200 miles wide.

One line of railroad crosses it from east to west; another line is being built from Grand Forks, on the Red river, west via Devils Lake, striking the Missouri about the forty-eighth parallel, and another west from Breckenridge, striking the Missouri below old Fort Rice. A branch is being built down the Red river valley from Fargo; another north from Casselton, thirty miles west; another north from Jamestown up the valley of the James, and still another is projected up the Missouri north from Bismarck.

These lines of communication all lead east to the lakes or south east to St. Paul and Minneapolis, while the lines of communication in southern Dakota lead south to St. Louis or east to Chicago.

The interests of the two sections are as different as those of Nebraska and Kansas, Iowa and Missouri, or Michigan and Ohio.

There are no lines of communication connecting the two sections, and they have no common sympathies, and no common interests. The people seldom meet. Their interests never can be harmonized.

South Dakota is a corn and sorghum country. North Dakota is a wheat and stock region.

The population of South Dakota is about 90,000; that of North Dakota about 60,000. Both are settling rapidly and before another congress meets either sections will have a greater population than Delaware, Colorado, or Oregon and there is no sense or reason in the claim that the purpose of dividing is purely political.

Without division North Dakota will be the tail, simply, to the South Dakota kite, attracting attention to it and giving it prominence and serving it as tails on animals or kites are required to serve. The capital and the public institutions, public property and public officers will all be located in South Dakota, because they have the bulk of population—the bulk of capital.

Division will give us a territorial or state organization of our own—will give us officers in sympathy with us, and enable us to reach the powers that be. It will give us our own public institutions; appropriations for public surveys; and when admitted as a state it will give us influence and standing in congress and in the nation.

And when our north state is organized it will give us 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands; five per cent of all moneys received from the sale of public

lands, and would give us over two and one half million acres of school land, a domain within itself about the size of Connecticut.

Bismarck has nothing to lose by division. It will gain a United States court, as it will be the head of one of the judicial districts. It may gain one of the public institutions, and when our system of railroads is completed and the country west, north and south is developed it will stand a better show than any point in the Red river country for the capitol; but jealousy of Fargo, or the fear that Jamestown may secure the capitol ought not to lead any one to oppose division. If the people settle at any point on the line of the North Pacific or in North Dakota on the Missouri river, Bismarck will gain advantage. It is wise to forget the slight mistakes and the errors of the past and all strike hands for North Dakota and for its future prosperity.

DAKOTA can be divided at this session of congress. Nothing is lost to Bismarck by division. Much may be gained through it. Of course in view of the prejudice that has grown up in the Red river valley against this county, Bismarck will stand a poor show indeed in the distribution of public favors; but as our people mingle, that prejudice will soon disappear and our interests being in common, common sympathies will soon take the place of prejudice. As to the capitol of the new territory, Bismarck is undoubtedly the proper place for it, but it is not a matter worth quarreling over. Almost anyone of the state institutions—the prison, insane asylum, or a normal school are worth more to a city than the capitol, which is most valuable through the attention it attracts to the locality; but this is over-balanced, in the opinion of many, by the jealousy that is excited by it. If Bismarck gains only the United States court, she can afford to surrender all claims to the capitol rather than remain in her present condition. It is to be hoped, however, that the Fargo convention will have the good taste to remain silent on the capitol question. Let us all stand shoulder to shoulder in the battle for division, each locality working harder, perhaps, because of hopes entertained and let time settle the capitol question.

ELSEWHERE will be found a dispatch to the Fargo Argus in which an immense kick is made on Minnesotians for Dakota offices. So long as people are to be selected from outside states for the important offices in Dakota it does not appear why there should be greater objection to Minnesotians than to people from any other state. They came here with impressions formed that are favorable to Dakota and enter at once with the true spirit upon the work of building up the interests of Dakota. They have no erroneous impressions or prejudices to overcome but are western in their education and sympathies—they are Dakotians from the day they land on Dakota soil.

THERE seems to be a disposition prevailing among those interested in Bismarck, to unite in any good work to promote the future prosperity of the city. The wrangling, the bickering and back-biting of the past are to be forgotten, and a disposition has developed to take a seat most effectually upon those who have been responsible for about all of the trouble that has been raised. There seems to be a disposition to push Bismarck to the front rather than the grievances, the prejudices, or the interest of any particular individual. Let Bismarck be the battle cry of every man interested in Bismarck's prosperity.

THE excellent weather continues much to the disgust of the wood and coal men, and those dealing in winter wear of every sort. The country is bare of snow and ice and the streets are dry and dusty; work is progressing on the North Pacific and on the bridge as rapidly and with as much profit as in September. Aside from a mere squall on Sunday last there has not been any unpleasant weather for nearly two months.

GUITEAU objected to Scoville's fool theory and bounced him for it. Having proven his sanity, he falls back on irresistible impulse at the moment the deed was committed. Just now he is taking more stock in Charley Reed than the Deity, and depends upon him to defend. Deity and Scoville are way below par in his estimation.

In the language of Hennafin in order to be a crank one must have brains, and it must be admitted that some of the writers who are now shying their productions

into the newspaper arena show tact as well as spirit, and evidently are well informed in relation to the matters of which they write, but for the glowing, burning, brilliant attack—one that will amaze—wait until the prince of cranks gets his production ready. It is promised at an early day.

BURLINGHAM county is likely to have a double delegation to the Fargo convention. Did any one ever see such people any way as they have over there at Bismarck?—Fargo Argus. No. Stoyell didn't have following enough this time to choose delegates from, or even to second a motion.

AS PILLS are good for a disordered system, Denny Hennafin thinks a dose good for the body politic, and therefore, rejoices that the cranks have turned loose. If Denny, however, should take a hand in the controversy and give his opinion of cranks in general there would be music.

IS IT possible that the late Bismarck Sun influenced Major Edwards, of the Fargo Argus, into the opinion that the North Pacific railroad is mismanaged?

JAMESTOWN would be a good compromise point for the capital of Dakota. Bismarck isn't suffering for it, and Fargo could, no doubt, be happy without it.

CHAS. COLLINS laments that religion and churches are getting so gorgeously rich that poor people are barred out from public worship.

A BILL has been introduced in the senate to prohibit the distilling of whiskey after the year nineteen hundred.

HON. FRANK PETTIGREW has introduced a bill in congress to open up the Fort Rice military reservation.

THE St. Paul Globe says that the general passenger office of the Northern Pacific is in a fair way to possess a museum of curiosities. Yesterday brought to it specimens of sandstone, partly formed, from the Little Missouri, containing leaves and twigs which are in appearance nearly as perfect as though they had just fallen from the parent tree.

THE grand jury at New York on Tuesday made a presentment deprecating the running of street cars and stages without conductors, and advising some action to compel the companies to have a conductor on each. They call attention, also, to the great losses to the city occurring in the management of the docks.

THE census bureau has issued a bulletin showing that there was standing on the 21st of May, 1880, 80,610,000,000 feet of merchantable pine in Minnesota, 23,957,000,000 feet in Mississippi, 21,192,000,000 feet in Alabama, 6,615,800,000 feet in Florida, and 67,508,500 feet in Texas.

MR. BEECHER has written a letter to the New York Tribune on America's burning shame—Charles J. Guiteau—in which he says: "He who is sane enough to organize the elements of crime and accomplish it, is sane enough to be hanged." So says everybody.

THE great steel arms of the Brooklyn bridge, reaching from the towers out over East river, have met in the center of the stream, and the structure begins to give promise of early completion.

JEAN AUGUSTE BERTREND, the principal republican member of the French senate, is dead. He threw himself from a hospital window while suffering from delirium resulting from fever and was killed.

O. D. MASON, correspondent of the London News, was arrested at Constantinople Tuesday, charged with speaking in abusive terms of the sultan, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Dakota Matters.

A dispatch to the Fargo Argus from Washington says: The committee on territories will report favorably to the division of Dakota, and admitting the south half as a state. Modest Minnesota will insist on naming the governor and several other territorial officers. Thomas Simpson, of Wisconsin, a strong supporter of Senator Windom, who expected to have Chief Justice Shannon's place, but who gave way for Edger-ton to keep peace in the family, is now Windom's candidate for governor of North Dakota, while Hon. Knut Nelson, of Alexandria is to have a judgeship unless he can secure District Attorney Campbell's place, is Senator McMillan's man. Nelson has been state senator; is an able lawyer and deserves well of his representatives. Mr. Simpson is said to be one of the ablest lawyers in Minnesota, about fifty years of age, smooth-faced, and resembles Henry Ward Beecher in appearance, a gentleman of elegant address, gentle manners, suave demeanor, a pleasant conversationalist and a class leader in the Methodist church. While the people of Dakota may kick at such an influx of Minnesotians with federal commissions in their pockets, no one can blame Senator Windom for promptly paying his debts and standing by his friends.

NEWS-NOTES.

THE weather south is wet and disagreeable. M. J. COHEN & Co, Memphis cigar dealers, have failed.

TWO ladies are candidates for clerk of the Ohio legislature.

CHICAGO expended over \$11,500,000 in buildings the past year.

THERE are over 12,000 Catholics out of the 25,000 people in Dubuque.

ADAMS grocery house at Manlin, Texas, was burned on Monday; loss, \$60,000.

IT will take until the first of July for the census bureau to complete its labors.

CHRISTMAS in New York was observed by the almost total suspension of business.

JOHN CONWELL of Kenosha, was fatally injured by the cars at Milwaukee Tuesday afternoon.

A FRESHET is announced in the river at Albany, N. Y., steady rain all day on Tuesday.

A HARRISBURG dispatch reports warm rains for a week past and great floods on that account.

CHAS. BROWN shot and fatally wounded a man named Stewart at Bismarck, near Danville, Ill. Monday.

S. D. HARNES gets nine months additional sentence in the Maine State prison for attempting to escape.

H. M. KNOWLTON, for killing David Ronck, gets ten years in the penitentiary and one thousand dollar fine.

VIENNA is greatly excited over a nun being detained against her will. She was recaptured in an attempt to escape.

COL. INA H. PIERCE, who was found dead in his bed at Miles City last week, was a nephew of ex-president Pierce.

GEO. D. PERKINS, the Conservative level-headed editor of the Sioux City Journal, has been making land league speeches.

IN a bloody fight on the Bloomington & Western railroad Monday Chas. Harris was killed and another man fatally wounded.

SENATOR BECK is preparing a speech on the tariff question. He opposes a commission to revise, and desires congress to control it.

SMALL-POX is spreading to an alarming extent through the state of Illinois. Manheim, fourteen miles north of Chicago, is the latest victim.

CONGRESSMAN ALDRICH, chairman of the committee on territories, says that he believes Dakota will be admitted as a state at this session.

THE portrait of Garfield, which is hereafter to honor the five cent postage stamps, is a striking likeness. Mrs. Garfield is much pleased with it.

EX-SENATOR THOMAS C. PLATT has removed all his household goods from Owego to Washington, and will hereafter make that city his home.

MRS. THOS. T. GREENWOOD, of Gardner, Mass., died on Sunday from the effects of an injury received by being thrown from a carriage by a runaway team.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says that the drift of sentiment indicates that the apportionment bill will be passed, fixing the members of congress at 319.

THE killing of Barney Elbot, at Coleedge, Kan., proves to have been murder. The story of his having outraged Hardesty's wife was simply to shield the murderers.

A PORTRAIT of president Garfield, painted on porcelain by Herr Sturin, a Dresden artist, has been sent from Germany as a Christmas gift for Mrs. Garfield.

AN exchange thinks "Guiteau may be very crazy, but waltz him up to a scaffold and he would know at once that it was not a rostrum for a lunatic lecturer."

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., reports an expected flood. Water was on Tuesday ten feet above the low water mark, and still rising. Booms are broken, and logs reported coming down.

THERE is said to be no male descendant of the Sumner family. Its only representatives are the three nieces of the great senator—the daughters of his sister, Mrs. Julia Hastings.

THE Minneapolis Tribune says that if the Dakota coal company proves to have the hoped for magnitude, the ex-vice-president's namesake will probably spell its name Coal-fax.

THE Austrian emperor has decided to erect at his own cost, a theatre on the site of the Ring theatre, in which requiem mass may be celebrated yearly for the victims of the recent fire.

A NEWPORT, R. I., dispatch says the boys of the training squadron, to the number of six hundred, were given a grand dinner on Tuesday on board the New Hampshire and Minnesota.

THE great Brooklyn bridge, over the East river, between the cities of New York and Brooklyn, is so far completed that the mayors of the two cities passed over it on foot last week.

A YOUNG lady in New York who was accosted by a well dressed young man in an insulting manner, accepted the offer of an old woman, who was grubbing in an ash barrel close by, to "cover him with ashes for ten cents." The biped was pelted with handfuls of ashes, covering him from head to foot before he could escape. The old lady was rewarded with a quarter by the young lady, who remained to witness the operation.

HAPPY HEARTS.

MADE SO BY THE NUMEROUS CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

Christmas Trees at the Churches and the Business Done in Holiday Goods by Bismarck's Merchants.

Christmas Eve.

Saturday was a busy day among those selling holiday goods. Fair ladies and generous hearted men fitted here and there and almost all were loaded down with tokens of love and regard. Day's jewelry store was crowded from morning till night; Peterson Veeder & Co. enjoyed an immense trade; Albertson's 99c store was a favorite resort. Hellembaek reports unusually large sales; Dunn's stock was reduced at a fearful rate; Lee Hains' Chinese goods attracted great attention and went off like hot cakes; Eisenberg and Watson found a great demand for their holiday specialties, and last but not least the post-office news store with its immense and well selected stock enjoyed a good trade. The Sunday school teachers purchased for their respective classes, parents for their children, husbands for their wives, wives for their husbands, lovers for their sweethearts, and friends for friends. The TARIENS will not attempt to speak of the happy home features of Christmas Eve, but the public festivities were of note. At the

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A happy throng of teachers, children and their friends and parents gathered. The church which had been handsomely decorated and thrown into a parlor, was crowded. At six p. m. the exercises commenced, and for three quarters of an hour the children romped and played games not more to their own hearts content than that of the elder on-lookers. A bountiful supper was served to all present, at the close of which the tree was illuminated and the lamp lights darkened. The display of gifts was simply exquisite. The decorations attracted deserved attention. A brief prayer of thanks was offered and then the presents were distributed. All were happy, and none could help feeling thankful that their lot was cast in a Christian land. One of the most pleasant features of the occasion was the perfect good will which prevailed, making all tender and kind to one another, and orderly in all their plays, and this good will seemed to be carried away to their homes, there not being, so far as known, a single disappointed heart.

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The festivities were a success. The beautiful ash tree was fairly loaded with pretty presents partly given by the school and in part the gifts of parents and friends. The concert exercises by the children were good, noticeable among them being several recitations by the Masters and Misses, and the beautiful and entrancing refrain "We're Marching to Zion" was rendered as a marching song, while the children passed around through the aisle to the rhythm of the music. Every seat in the church was occupied, and all seemed well pleased with the evening's entertainment.

You Should Smile.

Travel improves superior wine and spoils poor; it is the same with the brain.

Man is governed by the rule of three when he marries and lives with his wife's "pa and ma."

"All signs fail in dry times," as the bartender said to the beat who tried to give him the wink.

Why is a horse the most curious feeder in the world? Because he eats best when he has not a bit in his mouth.

Getting married is a good deal like a game of whist—it depends altogether on what kind of a hand you hold.

Admirers of the turf are enthusiastic over the recent performances of a horse called The Little Brown Jug. But isn't this enthusiasm uncalled for? Doesn't the little brown jug always go round fast?

She was a noodle and he was a noodle, and when their marriage was announced, Simons, who knew and appreciated them both, exclaimed, with tears standing in his eyes, "Two souls without a single thought."

"I say when does this train leave?" "What are you asking me for?" "Go to the conductor; I'm the engineer." "I know you're the engineer; but you might give a man a civil answer." "Yes, but I am not a civil engineer."

Inquirer.—Does a man's size vary? Yes, sir; we've seen a man in a bar-room treating the crowd and he was the biggest man in the town till his mother-in-law came in and took him by the ear, and then he was a very little fellow.

The Report Courteous.

[San Francisco Post.]

A very hungry arrival at the Palace rushed into the dining-room the other day and fell upon the tables with great determination.

"I declare!" said one of those hotel funny dogs, who sat at the same table. "My dear sir, you remind me of the Prodigal Son."

"Exactly," said the hungry man, as he speared another cutlet. "I am forced to eat with the hogs."

And the lardy dab was carried out on a ship.