

The Alert

DAILY AND WEEKLY

MARSHALL McCLURE.

An ex train of 170,000 pounds went to Deadwood on the 13th.

Bishop Clarkson continued thirteen persons at Yankton on Sunday.

W. G. Rodgers' house, ten miles from Madison, burned on Friday night. Loss \$1,000.

Scare-the-enemy is the euphemism name of an Indian who was recently hauled into the Deadwood calaboose for too much fire water.

The burned out business men of Grand Forks are erecting temporary buildings and making preparations to resume business.

The fellows who got up last fall's fair at Fargo haven't paid the horse racing premiums and something has got to be done p. d. q. according to the horse-men.

Disheveled farmers near Flandrau steal each other's wheat, and now Niles E. Chamberlin has been caught at it, and may become an inmate of the new penitentiary.

According to the Deadwood Democrat great bitterness of feeling prevails between the Spotted Tail and Crow Dog factions at Pine Ridge agency, and trouble is liable to ensue at any time.

The Sioux commission is expected to arrive in Chamberlain next Tuesday and to thence proceed to treat with the Indians at Lower Brule and Crow Creek. This will end their labors with the Indians, in which they have been generally successful.

E. T. White, of Yankton, has received from James Leighton Gilmore, the man who was hanged in Deadwood last Friday, a written confession, duly sworn to, that himself and another man (name not given) burglarized White's office in the spring of 1880.

The Miles City Press says that frozen onions were among the commodities auctioned off at the pound party on Tuesday evening. Being neatly done up in paper they presented an attractive outside appearance as though their contents had been French confectionery.

Huron Times, 15—Fifty bags of mail matter, which had been snow bound on the Hastings & Dakota railway, went north over the James River branch night before last. Four truck loads of express that had also been blocked on that road were shipped north on the same train.

Gov. Ordway says that had congress dispensed with the holiday recess he is confident that the bill to admit Dakota could have been reached and passed. Now, however, he thinks the measure may be defeated by dilatory tactics in consideration of measures ahead of it on the calendar.

The county commissioners of Cass county cut the sheriff down from 75 to 50 cents per day, board for prisoners, and the grand jury restored the rate to 75 cents, and censured the board for their niggardliness. The grand jury may encroach into county finance matters, which are said to be in bad shape.

The consummation of the purchase by the Northern Pacific of some 220 acres of land in the suburbs of St. Paul, upon which important buildings are to be erected, looks as if St. Paul had again stepped in ahead of Minneapolis and is one point nearer becoming substantially the Northern Pacific terminus at this end.

The Brooklyn Press says that Col. Moody became lost on the prairie Saturday night, and was very badly frozen. He will probably lose his toes and perhaps some of his fingers. The cause of his getting lost was not from the effect of his drinking too much water. He was found Sunday morning by Thos. Hickey, crawling on hands and knees. We hope he will come out all right this time and won't do so any more.

Speaking of the causes of the superiority of the Milwaukee fire department over that of Minneapolis, a gentleman remarks "When the chief of the Milwaukee fire department asks for anything to improve the service, he gets it. When the Minneapolis fire department asks for anything, it is met with the exclamation, 'Now what in h—l do you want that for?' The Milwaukee fire department costs \$101,000 per year, while the Minneapolis department costs only \$44,000."

The Press and Dakotian says: There is something peculiarly frontier like in an accident caused as was the following related by the Astorian Herald: David Watson met with a serious accident this week. While out riding, his horse became frightened at a wolf which jumped up out of the grass near his buggy. The buggy was overturned and Mr. Watson thrown out and dragged under the buggy for several rods. His left arm is broken and he is otherwise injured.

The Watertown Courier relates a hairbreadth escape in the following: Thursday Mr. Will Miller, a brakeman on the freight train, came near meeting with a serious, if not fatal accident. He got his foot caught in the frog of the track in the yards in front of an approaching freight car and was unable to extricate it. He threw himself upon his face off the track with a view of saving as much of his body as possible from crushing by the approaching wheels, but as good fortune would have it, the brake of the car struck his foot just ahead of the wheels and knocked it from its fastening in the frog, thus saving its being crushed to atoms. A severe wrenching and a few bruises were the only damage done.

The versatile Mandan citizen, collectively, evolved a series of resolutions at a vociferous public meeting, and by a committee of fearless citizens these resolutions were carried to John Trumbull, the man recently acquitted under an indictment for the murder of Jacob Book, asking or rather demanding that John occupy but twenty minutes in leaving Monday. The Pioneer relates that John

composedly read the resolutions, and then requested them to "go to h—l!" The meeting upon receipt of this reply, adjourned until morning to consider John's proposition. If John has the proper amount of high ground he will insist upon his amendment, and since he has been tried and acquitted by a jury of his peers, all law abiding citizens will give him their sympathy.

In Indianapolis the telegraph companies have been taxed \$2 per pole throughout the city.

An Old Colony railroad conductor has gone into the revivalist business on a large scale on the line of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

Fifteen additional arrests have been made in New Orleans of parties indicted by the federal grand jury for violation of the election laws.

The Northwestern redskins are again becoming restive and inclined to invite a winter campaign, which would neither be pleasant for the troops nor for the Indians either.

Little Vest of Missouri is preparing a speech, which he thinks will down Dakota legislation. A mighty man is the senator from Missouri—in his mind.

It is charged that when the house of A. T. Stewart & Co. abandoned Chicago it "jumped" a tax bill of \$12,000. The Times remarks that "Chicago should be grateful that the house didn't burglarize the city treasury." Has the great commercial name of Stewart fallen so low?

President Arthur is to be brought to judgment for an early indiscretion. He is charged with having written a poem when he taught school. He will probably plead in palliation of the offense that it was committed before he had arrived at the age of discretion. The same plea would hold good for some of his more recent acts.

The general feeling seems to be that a division and admission bill cannot pass in congress but that division alone would be carried. The people in South Dakota are clamoring for admission, and they persist in loading the bill down with their statehood. If they would drop off that nightmare to Senator Hale he might not oppose the bill.

Deadwood Pioneer: The Indians now confined in our county jail are an enterprising trio. They are all in for murder, and one, Crow Dog, the slayer of Chief Spotted Tail, is under sentence of death, still they feel like turning an honest penny and have been engaged during the past blizzard night in sawing wood for the residents living about the bastille.

Old Dog, who is a cripple in one arm, is the boss of the gang of untutored wood sawyers. They are doing very good work, taking into account that manual labor is not their fort. Those who have witnessed these noble untutored at their work, describe their efforts in making the saw run straight and rapid as laughable.

The following shows the date at which the eleven general officers of the army will retire from active service. It will be seen that General Miles will be the last to retire, so that in the next ten or twelve years, by virtue of seniority, he will be at the head of the army: General Sherman, February 8, 1884; Lieutenant General Sheridan, June, 1884; Major General Hancock, March, 1884; Major General Schofield, November, 1884; Major General Pope, July, 1886; Brigadier General Howard, June, 1886; Brigadier General Terry, 1882; Brigadier General Augur, August, 1885; Brigadier General Crook, July, 1885; Brigadier General Miles, July, 1886; Brigadier General Mackenzie, August, 1884.

Thomas James, founder of the Chicago system of narrow gauge railroads, proposes to build a similar system in Central Dakota, to be known as the Missouri, Bismarck and Yellowstone narrow gauge railroad. The route of the main line will start from some point on the Missouri river, probably Chamberlain, thence northward through Hand, Faulk counties, and from those points tend slightly northwest to Bismarck and the Yellowstone country. A number of proposed branches are being contemplated, but no definite plans as to their location have yet been decided upon. A. B. Melville, of Huron, received a letter from Mr. James Saturday night, in which he said that more than half of the stock had been taken and that grading would begin at Miller or St. Lawrence by the 1st of June next.

Advices received at the Indian office, dated Dec. 4, coming through regular military channels, report that the Milk River country, in Northern Montana, is overrun with half-breeds, Crees, and Lower Brule bands of hostile Sioux Indians, also that the Yankton Indians, and possibly others, were obtaining arms, ammunition and whisky in unlimited quantities at Norris Place, thirty-five miles above Dry Forks, Mont., and that a collision between the troops and these Indians was apprehended. It is stated at the Indian office that the most of the intruders are Canadian Indians, and that steps were taken some days ago, when the department was first advised of their presence in Montana; to prevent them from obtaining arms, ammunition, etc., at the different trading posts in that section.

The Benton Press says: Bands of horse thieves are operating all through the eastern part of Montana, and they are so numerous and the country so favorable for their nefarious calling that the country authorities are almost powerless to prevent their operations or arrest the members of the different gangs. We do not like to advise a departure from the laws of the country, but we believe these criminal bands will never get entirely rid of until the settlers organize and hunt them down—make it so hot for them that, like the road agents of early days, those who are not decorated with a hemp noose will see the country in dread of the just vengeance of an outraged people. It is a physical impossibility for the sheriffs and two or three deputies to guard such a lot of territory as they have supervision of, no matter how energetic and true men they may be. We cannot help thinking the people will have to

take this horse stealing business into their own hands before the thieves are forever routed out. Desperate cases require desperate remedies, and these must now be classed under that head.

A hospital for disabled railroad men will shortly be established at LaCrosse. Tom Bryant has been arrested at Mendonville for stealing horses at Wilder's landing.

Skilled miners are called for in the Black Hills, and are promised double wages in the spring.

The D. J. Spaulding flour mills at Black River Falls, Minn., was destroyed by fire Friday morning, at a loss of \$60,000.

The Russian refugees in Grand Forks are now well supplied with clothing and provisions and can withstand the severest winter.

The "Ace of Clubs" at Fargo handsomely entertained the Miss Leonora Austin party on the occasion of its appearance in that city.

The tracklayers on the Canadian Pacific railway are within seventeen miles of Maple Creek, which is the limit of operations for the winter.

Ludwig Roedel of Milwaukee, was clubbed into insensibility by his crazy son and wife, and then taken out and hung to a sapling. The body was found Friday.

The organ of the opposition at Oshkosh has discovered that Isaac Stevenson, congressman-elect in the Ninth Wisconsin, is an alien and ineligible to serve his constituency in congress.

Register Letcher has filed his answer with Secretary Teller to the complaints set forth against him as register of the Mitchell land office. He alleges good faith in all his official acts.

It is reported that Willis Drummond Jr., has resigned the position of land commissioner of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and has gone into the real estate business in Chicago.

Congressman Guenther of Wisconsin has introduced a bill in the house providing for the sale of certain timber on the lands reserved for the Menominee Indians. A similar bill is pending in the senate.

The Grand Forks News tells of a runaway couple on the train between this city and Fargo. The male foot was about 40 years old, and the other one seventeen. They were evidently afraid of pursuit, and abandoned the train.

Sand-bagging and robbery are constantly scoring fresh triumphs in Chicago. If the police force of the city is reorganized more times with great flourish of trumpets, life will be as insecure in Chicago as in a base ball field.

A suit was commenced Friday in the supreme court against the Union Pacific railroad by Oswald Leo. The relief sought is to enjoin the company from using or applying the company's earnings or assets to the maintenance of other roads.

Delegate Pettigrew thinks if the Washburn bill to repeal the pre-emption law fails to pass, then the present law should be so amended as to require applicants to take oath they are taking the land for the purpose of a home, and not for speculative purposes.

The grand jury at Big Stone City failed to find an indictment against J. D. Wade, the alleged forger of a county warrant, but did find indictments against three persons, names not made public, but supposed to be those who attempted to put up the job on Wade.

Up to Dec. 15, 9,645 miles of new railroad have been constructed this year, against 7,601 miles reported for the corresponding time last year. 5,836 miles in 1886; 3,264 miles in 1870; 2,243 miles in 1877; 2,283 in 1876. This year's mileage is more than one-fourth greater than that of 1881.

The Sioux commission expects to finish its work by February 1st. It has effected an agreement with 20,000 Sioux for the cession of a portion of their great reservation, and may easily be expected to secure the acquiescence of the remaining 1,800 noble red men yet to be consorted.

Walpelen, Dak., furnished a court room tragedy Saturday. S. E. Newton being arraigned on a charge of ravishing a girl in his employ, named Emma Nash, pleaded not guilty, and was immediately shot in the chest with fatal effect by the girl's father. There will not be a superabundance of popular regret, should the guilt of Newton be established.

Grand Forks News: Capt. Heerman's boat, the Minnewaukan, is now at Bartlett, and will be hauled overland this week. He is talking of putting two boats on the lake, and spoke to Lieut. Creel about the feasibility of bringing the steamer Saucy Kate, the fastest steamer on Lake Minnetonka, to Devil's Lake.

Orders were given last week for 750 for the Michigan Central, for twelve new locomotives for the Canada Southern, and for thirteen new locomotives, twenty passenger and two dining cars for the New York Central. This order will make an addition of thirty new locomotives to the New York Central and twenty-five to the Canada Southern equipment this year.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Canton is reported to be in the midst of the greatest religious excitement ever known there. The attendance is very large and the enthusiasm intense. Many of the ladies have gone in bands to the saloons and held prayer and song meetings there. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Hartsough of Sioux Falls, are conducting the revival.

Grand Forks Plaindealer: A government party in charge of J. N. Darling, of St. Paul, with Engineer F. T. Hampton of this city, left yesterday morning for Goose Rapids on the Red river, where they will make preliminary arrangements for building a lock to enable boats to pass up and down the river between Grand Forks and Fargo. Mr. Hampton has been experimenting with Red river locks to see if they would answer for the purpose. The experiment was satisfactory and brick will be hurled on the ground.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Railroad Meeting Last Night.

Pursuant to previous announcement the board of trade held a meeting at the office of Allen & Dodge last night which was largely attended. The object of the meeting was to hear the report of the railroad committee and act upon it. Committee reported and after a discussion of the report it was accepted, and the secretary directed to open books for subscription to the capital stock Dec. 26th and hold same open until January 12th when the subscribers will meet to elect incorporators. The feeling was harmonious on the subject and everything bids fair for the success of the enterprise.

Mr. Klaus made the following proposition: JAMESTOWN, D. T. Dec. 22, 1882. To the citizens and property owners of Jamestown, D. T. GENTLEMEN:—I propose to erect the coming year a hotel large enough to accommodate the needs of the traveling public, the building to be of stone and brick, and not less than three stories high above the basement, and have a frontage on Front street and Fifth Avenue of not less than 240 feet and it may be 200 feet, and have not less than 90 rooms, for parlor and sleeping rooms, on the second and third floors, and a dining room 40x60, office and reading room, wash room and kitchen on first floor. The whole building to be heated by steam and to be a first-class building in all respects and to cost not less than \$80,000 including furniture (aside from and not including price of the lots), providing the citizens of Jamestown will pay the amount of three per cent interest on one-half the estimated cost, namely, on \$40,000 for five years, which amounts to \$6,000. If this amount is raised between the 1st day and the first of January, 1883, I will change the plans for the building, as now intended, into a hotel building as described in the foregoing proposition. I also think such a building ought to be exempt from village and city taxes for five years and have a proper sewerage built to the river west of Fifth Avenue by the property owners on said street.

Respectfully Yours, A. KRAEL.

It was moved and adopted that the foregoing proposition be received and that the chair appoint a committee of three to see about raising the money. Chair appointed as such committee: W. H. Burke, Thos. Lovd, and G. W. Vennum, and the enterprise awaits their reports.

The "Leading Attorney."

In the interests of the public the Alert the other morning took occasion to rebuke the adamant cheek of William C. White in attempting to force himself upon the village board to draft the new city charter for Jamestown, and showed wherein the gall of William consisted in the presumption of doing such a thing in the face of his official blunders as city attorney. This well meant reproof, instead of being received in the christian spirit in which it was given, aroused William's ungodly nature to such a pitch that his flaxen locks, which are usually parted in the middle with such meridian accuracy and tonsorial taste, stood out like the quills of a porcupine. In this condition of mind he rushed to the Capital office and besought the editor thereof to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty Alert.

As a result of this conference the Capital came out in the evening with dynamite in its headlines and "blue law" brimstone in a column fusillade of vindictive billingsgate against the Alert man, the style of which would stir up the envy of the lowest pot house politician that ever manipulated the shams of New York City. It might have been a great deal worse but for the fact that they had both attended the regular weekly prayer meeting the evening before.

They jointly and severally assert that William is an "honorable gentleman, respected citizen and able attorney," which led us to examine the docket, and in the sense of his "leading" his clients into trouble we do not dispute the assertion. But it is not with William as a private "gentleman, citizen or attorney" we have to do. In those capacities he would figure no more in the columns of the Alert than any other obscure person and we would accord him the same importance in the census report as any other. Personally and privately we have no occasion to mention William.

But in the inscrutable mystery of human events William became village attorney and was the legal adviser of the board of trustees, and drew up the ordinances for the government of the village, and it is with William as a public functionary that the Alert is dealing just now, and if he thinks he and his acts as such are not a subject of public discussion and criticism, he will find out his mistake by a diligent perusal of the columns of the Alert.

As a sample of the ordinances gotten up by this "leading attorney," we give the following: No. 7.

No person shall ride or drive any horse or horse upon any street or alley in the village of Jamestown faster than at the rate of six miles an hour, under a penalty of three dollars fine for every offense.

That is a very pretty little ordinance we grant, and ought to occupy a page in a primer for little school children, for they would not be likely to embarrass the teacher by inquiring how the fine could be collected if the person convicted should refuse to pay it. William would say, send him to jail, but where is there any authority in the ordinance for such confinement. This is a sample of the prescribed penalties for violation of the village ordinances drawn by the "leading attorney" whose front name is William.

Ordinance No. 9 provides for impounding certain animals running at large within the corporate limits. It provides a way of getting the animals into the pound but no way of getting them out, no way of notifying the owner nor of disposing of the animals if not called for. The custom has been for the owners of stock impounded to go to the pound and take it away and tell the officers to go to h—l for their fees.

These blundering ordinances indicate what kind of a charter William would formulate, and in the face of these blunders we submit that his solicitation of the job was an exhibition of gall worthy of

note and meriting the rebuke the Alert gave him.

CHRISTMAS.

To-morrow is Christmas, a day of general rejoicing all over the world wherever the influence of the Christian religion extends. It is the day celebrated as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the star of Bethlehem, whose radiant light has spread and expanded to the uttermost ends of the earth, and whose character for "going about and doing good" has stood for over eighteen hundred years without a parallel in the world's history.

As to this being the precise anniversary of the birth of this grand character, this unapproachable and unimpeachable model of moral perfection and benevolence, may not be precisely true, but it is so recognized and celebrated by all Christian people, and it is immaterial as to precision in the day or the week or even the month. It was His character, moral rectitude and transcendent benevolence that enshrined His memory in the hearts of mankind, and not the place or time of His birth. Even His power to perform miracles, and for the time suspend the laws of nature, would only have ranked Him alongside of Moses and Joshua and many of the prophets of old. The unapproachable grandeur and simplicity of the sermon on the Mount at the beginning of His public ministry, stands alone to-day as the climax and master-piece of human language, and will forever remain so. Even this might not alone have stood the test of time, but for being followed by His example of sympathizing with the distressed, lifting up the fallen, sorrowing with those in sorrow, mingling his tears of sympathy with theirs of grief, returning good for evil and blessings for curses, healing the sick, raising the dead and rejoicing with them. Though he had earthly glory within his reach and heaven at his command, he was yet a "man of sorrows" through sympathy with the sorrows of mankind. Be he God or man is immaterial so far as his example to man is concerned. By Christian and infidel alike he is regarded as a model character, and the central sun of moral perfection.

This being the character of Him who is commemorated by the day we call Christmas, it is suggestive of the manner in which it should be celebrated. The shepherds who proclaimed his birth did so in the words: "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people." It kindles a feeling of rejoicing in the heart as the day approaches and culminates in the dawning of the morning. We feel, or should feel like rejoicing ourselves and contributing to the enjoyment of others, by presents or otherwise as the circumstances may seem to require. But while this is right, and like Him, we must not be unlike him by forgetting the distressed and sorrowing or we lose the best half of the celebration of the day. Remember reader, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," and also remember the afflicted and sorrowing and that "kind words never die"

The \$80,000 Hotel.

The proposition of Mr. Klaus, the boomer of all Jamestown boomers, to the citizens through the board of trade last night is certainly a very liberal one and will meet with a ready response by our citizens. Such an opportunity should not be allowed to remain untaken a single day. With this enterprise secured, the railroad enterprise in progress to assured success and the street railway, Jamestown will start anew in a boom that will eclipse all others on the Northern Pacific railroad. Bismarck has made rapid strides recently in the boom line and Jamestown cannot afford to fall back to a secondary position, and these late enterprises show that her enterprising citizens are determined that she shall not do so.

The Lenora Austin Party.

Klaus' hall was crowded last night with an audience composed of the intelligence and refinement of the city to witness the entertainment given by the above named company, and all speak of it in the most complimentary terms of praise. The elocutionary renditions by Miss Lenora Austin were excellent, the instrumental music by Miss Marie Geist enrapturing and singing by Miss Etta Hawkins enchanting, the latter being recalled several times by the encores of the audience. They receive the highest compliments of the public and the press wherever they go, and are in every way worthy of the public patronage and encouragement.

The Jamestown Land District.

The house committee on public lands does not favor the new proposed Jamestown land district, and the district will not be created. It is thought the Fargo district should not be subdivided, as it is compact in form. The Bismarck district is of such a nature that no convenience would be worked settlers in that district by the new one. When the Indian reservation in the Grand Forks district are opened to settlement, it will necessitate a new district there, which will be a business necessity. The expense of the new district is also another reason for not creating it.—Minneapolis Journal.

Bill Cody's Story of Custer.

William F. Cody, professionally known as "Buffalo Bill," in conversation with a Philadelphia reporter expressed the opinion that Gen. Custer had died by his own hand. His story is as follows: In 1871 I was post guard and scout at Fort Hays, Kan. One evening I was detailed to guide the general from Fort Hays to Fort Larned, a distance of sixty-five miles. The animal I rode was a mouse colored mule and the horse he called by the Indians Whirlwind. When I rode up and was presented to him he remarked that I had better get a horse. It would take something better than an old mule to keep ahead of him. We started, however, and for a time I had hard work to keep up, but when my mule got his second wind he left Custer's thoroughbred, and we were compelled to stop and wait for the escort to ride up. After

that I showed him a clean pair of heels and when we arrived at our destination he acknowledged that I rode a pretty good animal. I met him after that before he killed himself. Yes killed himself. The Indians who were in the fight at the Little Bighorn say he shot himself and from the Indian religion I am convinced they tell the truth. He was the only man on the field who was not mutilated, and an Indian will not mutilate the body of a man who takes his own life. I think Custer fought until his brother officers died and, no Reno to support him, he then died by his own hand and ended the career of as brave a man as ever wore spurs.

Not as Good as Dakota.

Louis Benson, of Garfield, Walsh county wrote to the Minnesota Tribune to get some information relative to Washington Territory and received the following reply: It is said the climate is mild in the winter but a heavy rainfall makes it uncomfortable. The soil is good but not as productive, we take it, as that of Dakota. We should judge by the fact of its tardiness in becoming thickly populated that there is some drawback that we are unacquainted with in regard to its advantages but we must not be unmindful that it is a long distance from the eastern states and the Mississippi valley and the expense in reaching it is much more than emigrants wish to spend in seeking new homes. It is said that it is a good fruit country, and that fair crops of wheat, oats, barley and potatoes are raised. It also abounds in soft timber lands, well watered.

U. S. Land Office.

The following is a statement of the filings and cash receipts at the United States land office in Fargo for the week ending Friday, Dec. 22:

Homestead entries..... 48 7,680
T. C..... 82 13,120
D. S..... 76 12,000
S. D. S..... 86 13,700
Final proofs..... 86 13,700
Total acreage..... 291 40,550
Total cash receipts..... \$20,175 90

THE ALERT MAN "GAINED."

Christmas Eve when the proprietor of the Alert had taken his place in the family circle, and had settled down in his easy chair with patriarchal gravity and serenity, he was notified to put in an appearance at Fields & Co's, jewelry store at seven o'clock sharp, as there would be something entertaining there at that time. Arriving at the place promptly on time he was soon followed by a committee of the citizens of Jamestown of which Hon. D. M. Kelleher, formerly a member of the territorial legislature, was chairman, and who addressed the Alert man as follows:

Mr. McClure: For the members of this committee and on the behalf of the citizens of Jamestown whom we represent on this occasion, I have the honor of presenting you this gold headed cane as a token of their regard for you as the editor of the leading daily paper of the James River valley and North Dakota, and for the able and impartial manner in which you have conducted the Alert for the past year. We believe your services have proven of great value to us as citizens and hope that you will accept this slight token of our high appreciation of that service, and that the same broad gauge spirit in which you have, in your judgment, seen fit to pursue will be continued in the future.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kelleher's remarks three rousing cheers were given for the Alert, after which demonstration the proprietor of the Alert who was all "broke up" by the unexpected affair, gathered himself together sufficiently to say that he accepted the token from all who had participated in the gift with gratitude for the expression of friendship and esteem it contained and hoped that he might ever so conduct the Alert in such a manner as to be entitled to the respect and regards of the people of Jamestown.

The inscription upon the cane was "From the citizens of Jamestown to Marshall McClure the impartial editor." The cane is a solid gold headed ebony, beautiful and valuable, and while the proprietor appreciates the gift coming from the people of this town without regard to party or faction, many of whom have seen the Alert grow up from a crude weekly to its present status as the leading daily of North Dakota, he looks upon it also as an endorsement of the course of the Alert in its independence in publishing the news no matter who it hits, and in giving "saint and sinner their portion in due season." The Alert has taken its own course upon all public questions and matters pertaining to the prosperity of the town regardless of individual "kickers" either on the one side or the other, and following events have generally proven the course of the Alert to be correct. We refer to this, not as a boast but as a justification rather.

How the Day was Spent.

The Christmas day was spent in various ways of enjoyment, and it seemed everybody did enjoy it in his own way. Many valuable presents were given and received from the child's toy up to the most elegant and costly. Many family and social reunions were had and the hours spent in pleasant association. Most of the business houses were closed during the afternoon so that the employees could enjoy the festivities of the day. The day was bright, pleasant and cheerful and the sleighs were out in full force, several large outfits of this kind, one of which was drawn by six horses, and everybody seemed to be happy and pleased with the day and occasion. The hotels all set out to their guests the best display of luxuries the market could afford, from the wild game of the Rocky Mountains to the fruits of the tropical climate. The dinners at the Grand Central was perhaps the finest and richest feast served in the city, though the Dakota, North Pacific, Fifth Avenue and Commercial did themselves credit in the collation spread for their guests. The boarders at these hotels gave the dining room girls some valuable presents for their faithful attention, and the Commercial gave a ball at night.

Religious service was held by the Catholics at Klaus' Hall and by the Episcopalians at the court house in the morning and afternoon. The people of the city and suburbs were gathered at the court house in the morning and afternoon. The people of the city and suburbs were gathered at the court house in the morning and afternoon. The people of the city and suburbs were gathered at the court house in the morning and afternoon.

byterian and Methodist Churches in the evening for the benefit and amusement of the Sunday schools, both of which were very pleasant entertainments and succeeded in pleasing the children which was their object. The churches were decorated to holiday attire and all the surroundings were of the most pleasant character.

We may in truth say the day was well observed and very appropriately celebrated. A few were unacquainted but the comparative number was not so great as is usually found in the states of more rigid laws against the selling of liquors, and even in this respect we think there was no such disadvantage of our prospects as an unprosperous city. No disturbance of any serious consequence occurred and no accidents of any serious nature. The heavens smiled on the day and the people universally rejoiced.

Unequal Assessment.

The Press and Dakotian calls the attention of the forthcoming legislature to the unequal assessment of property in the territory and gives instances of the glaring inequality from the auditor's report: In some counties it shows that lands are assessed in one county at \$1.32 per acre and in the adjoining county at \$1.64, both being of very nearly equal market value. Mules in Kidder county \$100 and in other counties at \$40 and in some as low as \$25. These inequalities exist all along the list of taxable property and evidently should receive attention of the legislature. Property had better be assessed at its full value for it does not add one cent to the aggregate of taxes and shows much better in the financial standing of the territory abroad, and the Alert joins in the demand for a reform of the basis of assessment. The assessed value of real and personal property in the territory at the last assessment was \$47,500,000 when the true value was very nearly \$100,000,000. By this means the territory goes before the financial world at not more than half its actual wealth.

This is the blunder a great many of the western states fell into in their early days, and they have never been able to get out of it. A man never feels so poor as when the assessor comes around and it is surprising to notice how the value of his property has raised in his estimation when he wants to obtain credit on his own financial responsibility. He would consider it a defamation of character to publish his financial standing taken from his own list made out to the assessor, and would prosecute such an offender for libel if he were not estopped from discarding his own statement. This evil should be corrected at the first opportunity and the system of assessment made to correspond with that of the states of property that the name of Dakota may have due credit for her value and her wealth. It is just as easy to pay one per cent on ten thousand dollars as it is to pay two percent on five thousand, and it shows a great deal better for the individual and for the territory.

A Father's Vengeance.

A Wapeton special to the Pioneer Press dated the 23d says "E. A. Newton, agent of the Northern Pacific, Fergus & Black Hills Railroad company at this place, was shot this afternoon about 6 o'clock by James Nash, a painter and prominent citizen of Wapeton, whose daughter Newton is said to have brutally outraged on Friday. The young lady, who is claimed, was outraged is Miss Emma Nash, a good looking and polite young miss of sixteen. In a complaint sworn out by her this morning before Justice McCumber, she stated that she had been working in Newton's family; that Mrs. Newton was on a visit and that Friday night Newton did not come home until very late, and after she was in bed, he came into her room, undressed, got into her bed and brutally outraged her, in spite of her pitiful pleadings for him to spare her. She was so frightened and so weak that she laid trembling in her bed until morning, when Newton again came to her bed and repeated the outrage. Newton was arraigned before Justice McCumber this afternoon, and after consulting with his counsel, Hon. Folsom Dow, pleaded not guilty. As soon as the words were out of his mouth, Nash stepped in front of him, and saying "you plead not guilty, do you, damn you!" shot him. The weapon used was a thirty-eight caliber bull dog revolver. The ball entered about the center of the chest. Dr. Nicholls, who is in attendance on the wounded man, who now lies on an improvised couch in the justice's office, says he thinks the wound is fatal. Mr. Nash immediately surrendered himself to Deputy Sheriff Bogart, and is now in the county jail. It must be said that Newton has shown himself a perfect gentleman in every way here, and one who knew him believe him guilty in thought or deed of the crime charged against him. The surgeon says he stands an even chance for life or death at present. Mr. Newton's wife was telegraphed at Manston, Minn., and will probably be here to-night. Nash is condemned by all for the act he so hastily did.

Dakota's Prospects.

Gov. Ordway left this morning in order to be present at the meeting of the Dakota legislature, which convenes on the 9th of January. In reply to an inquiry in regard to the admission and division of the Territory, the governor said that the action of the last legislative assembly in regard to Yankton county bonds had been a great obstruction in the way of any action in that direction. The recent committee of citizens from Yankton had done a great deal towards removing any stains of repudiation which the opponents of admission had sought to fasten upon the whole Territory. This committee had before the committees of congress, and had offered to refund the entire debt and interest against Yankton county, with a new bond made as strong as congressional action could make it at a rate of interest not exceeding 4 1/2 per cent, provided that private parties should not be made liable, or not