

THE RIVER PRESS.

Wednesday, December 29, 1880.

J. E. STEVENS, LOCAL EDITOR

IN TOWN AND OUT.

When Blinky is alone without his grammar, Or uses French without a lexicon, He is just as sure to make some break or other As he ever tries to use a Gallic bon.

In his spelling, too, he shows he's sadly lacking, For in his effort, made the other day, He vainly wrestled in his weekly clacking With the French *not* known as *rocherche*.

To believe the *Record's* writer we are willing, That his ways to us do not result from spite: For as servant, he must do his master's bidding, Or defy him in his arrogance and might.

Recherche! Oh! Oh!

Handkerchiefs are in demand in Benton at present.

We are pleased to see our friend Farmer on the streets again.

Thomas P. McElrath has assumed editorial charge of the *Yellowstone Journal* again.

P. H. Hughes and L. G. Leavitt arrived from the Barker district Tuesday evening.

The *Short Horns* begin to pattern after us in the way of a Personal column and Notes of News.

Foster set out a dinner for his patrons on Christmas day which could not be beaten in the country.

Some of the best Tom and Jerry you ever tasted is that served up by Brennan & Fisher at the Eureka saloon.

Helena people have been luxuriating in a suit about a turkey worth \$2. The county paid \$117.50 for the luxury.

A mild type of measles is prevalent in Helena. We don't let the capital get ahead of us in this, and have got it here, too.

The communication of J. Byrd is unavoidably crowded out by lack of time and space, it having reached us very late.

Coal is so scarce in and around our town that young people engaged in courting have to sit on each other's laps to keep warm.

W. A. Floto, a first-class druggist from Chicago, arrived last week, and has taken a position in the drug store of M. A. Flanagan.

During the recent cold snap one of Benton's merchants kept his store warm by burn-walnuts and it made a most excellent fire, though, we should judge, a rather expensive one.

Dancing parties are becoming frequent in Benton. There were two given New Year's eve, one on Main street, next door to the Court House, and another in a building on the levee.

The *New North-West* is coming to us looking clean and brilliant in new type and careful press work, and is still maintaining its old-time eminence among the papers of the Territory.

Three trains belonging to Ben McMahan, Charles Buckman and John Caruthers came in from Maginnis yesterday, loaded with dried meats, a few robes, and other articles of a like character.

Geo. Hill, a machinist of twenty years' experience, is prepared to repair sewing machines, locks, etc. Orders can be left at L. H. Rosencrans', Mrs. Beckman's, or by postal card through the post office.

In the late cold spell the thermometer, at Signal Service office in this place, registered 59 below zero, while the one at the Military Hospital marked 54 below, but a matter of 5 degrees did not amount to much just then to those who were compelled to be out.

The recent storm delayed the mails so, humans not being able to face it, that up to eight o'clock Friday night the mail which was due here Tuesday afternoon had not arrived. We think it will not take Billy Rowe long to catch up though, now that the gentle chinook has arrived.

There is some talk of a dancing school being started in Benton. Parties have taken the matter in hand, and if twenty gentlemen will go into it the services of a competent teacher can be secured. During the long winter evenings a more pleasant way of passing time can scarcely be found.

We would suggest to the editors of the *Pictorial* that their comments on grammatical and classical errors in newspapers would have more weight if they would spare more time from their extensive law practice and devote it to reading the proofs on their own sheet or get some one to do so who is competent to correct their errors.

On the 51st inst., at Dillon, a half-breed prostitute, known as "Cherokee Sal," shot herself in the head with suicidal intent, inflicting a dangerous wound. At last accounts she was in a critical condition. She accused a carpenter named Sheeney with shooting her, but on examination before Justice Estes there appeared to be no ground for the charge and Sheeney was discharged.

Some individuals without fear of the law or indignation in their hearts made a raid on the chicken house of Mrs. Coatsworth, on Baker street, a few evenings ago, and got away with between thirty and forty chickens. To prevent the fowls from making a noise, they wrung their necks as they took them off the roosts, thus being able to get away with the loot without being heard. The thieves are evidently old hands at the business. They have not yet been caught, though we understand the sheriff has a clue to their identity. The chickens were worth in the neighborhood of \$75, being nearly all of some fancy breed, and the loss is a severe one to the lady, it being hard to replace them.

It is rumored that one of the participants of the party held at Todd's Hall met with quite a loss in the shape of two \$20 notes.

Judge Tattan will continue to practise law in connection with his county offices; his law office will hereafter be in the county clerk's office.

Pres. Lewis and Dave Brown, started for Highwood this morning with their teams, where they will turn out and make their winter quarters.

As an instance of the rapid change a chinook in Montana makes in the temperature, we will state that in twenty-four hours after the thermometer marked 54 below zero, it had risen to 35 above.

During the late cold snap, it being reported to Col. Moale that some families in town who had no men folk to look after them were without fuel, and actually suffering from the cold, he, with a promptness which did credit to his humanity, immediately sent wood to them and took steps to ascertain if there were any more whose condition he could relieve.

We have heard that considerable feeling was manifested by some parties at our remarks last week about the house of I. G. Baker & Co. refusing us the statement of the shipments of the Baker line of steamers. The showing was made in justice to ourselves. Many persons had asked us why we had discriminated between the Benton P Line and the Baker Line in publishing the shipments of the one and not the other, and it was necessary to let the public know that the discrimination was on their part, and not on ours. The *River Press* aims to make no discrimination in a business point of view between any of the houses here, but to do all in its power to enhance the interest of Benton in a commercial sense. This is a plain statement of the facts, and on this we are willing to rest our case.

We must beg the indulgence of our readers for not coming out on time this week, but we proposed and Providence interposed by sending the storm king to pay us a visit on the evening before publication day. With two stoves going at a red heat we were unable to do a stroke of work, and printers will understand the state of affairs when we tell them that the type on the stones was frozen so solid that an effort to move it only resulted in breaking it clean off above the leads. The only way it could be moved was with a mallet, and hot water poured on it froze on the face of the type before it could be lifted. On the bed of the press lay a sheet of frost, and the ink was stiffer than—'inoculates in January.' Under these circumstances, we were compelled to suspend work entirely for over two days, thus making it Saturday before we are able to lay the paper before our subscribers. Our contemporary, with characteristic enterprise, by the reproduction of the two-column misstatement of the shipping interest, the doubling up of a few advertisements and the publication of a "dead" mineral notice, got out only one day behind.

Mr. L. T. Marshall has kindly allowed us to give the following extract from a letter received by him from a brother at St. Albert, in the Saskatchewan country, which may be of interest to some of our readers: "We have had a very wet and cold summer; the grain crops have been considerably damaged by the early frosts. There are plenty of root vegetables that will help the farmers out a little. It is very hard to get farming tools here, and when we can get them we have to pay \$45 and \$50 for breaking-plows, and everything else in proportion—50 cents per pound for harrow teeth. I wish you would try and find out what the latest patent mowers and rakes can be delivered at Fort Macleod for. There are several men here who want to buy mowers, and also single reapers; the combined mower and reaper is too heavy for this country. If we could get them cheaper from Benton than from Red River the people here would have them brought from the first named place. There are only three or four reapers in this country, and it is hard to get them to cut for us. I had to cut all my grain with a scythe this summer. There is another great drawback to this country—the scarcity of work horses. When some one brings in a span or two they ask from \$350 to \$400 per span, and that very few farmers can afford to pay. If some party would bring in a band of broke horses that would weigh between 900 and 1,000 pounds and could sell them for \$100 or \$125 each, they could sell a good many. I think a man might be able to buy them in Montana so that he could sell them here at those prices. There is more money to be made in this country in horses and cattle than in anything else."

Another Temperance Lecture. A man named Martin Daly, who kept a little fruit and apple stand on Front street, and was well known to every one on account of the absence of one of his legs, lost in an accident some time ago, met his death this week under circumstances which furnish the text for another sermon against the vice of intemperance. He had been drinking considerably of late, and on Saturday night threw himself on his bed in a drunken stupor. During the night he rolled off the bed and close to the stove, in which a fire was burning, and his clothes catching he was burned so badly before assistance reached him that he died on Wednesday. His body was burned, his face and one eye, his hair and whiskers completely burned off, and it is supposed that he had inhaled some of the flame and was burned internally. Deceased was about 45 years of age, and we understand had two children living at Bismarck or Sioux City.

A BUILDING BOOM.

For the Showing of Last Season's Business Can be Considered Nothing Less.

In closing the record for 1880, it might be appropriate to note some of the improvements which have been made in Benton during the last twelve months, in the way of new buildings, additions to those already up, etc. We have made some steps towards metropolitan honors in that time, in the formation of a board of trade, the establishment in our town of two banking houses, and the inception and preliminary steps towards a hotel of a size proportioned to the rapid growth of our town—to say nothing of the establishment of the *River Press*.

The largest enterprise in the building line completed during the past season was the brick store of Murphy, Neel & Co., at a cost of nearly fifteen thousand dollars. The building was supervised by Mr. A. Jamieson, and the work as completed reflects great credit on him. The height of the building, including the basement, is 31 feet on the street fronts, and the number of the windows and the artistic spring of their arches gives a much finer effect to the whole than would be deemed possible in a one-storied structure. The first floor is 125x44 feet in interior dimensions and 16 feet high. The basement story is the same in size as the first floor, and 8 feet high, and is by its slight elevation above the surface, and the disposition of the windows, a very excellent and well-lighted salesroom. The two rooms together have enormous capacity, and no salesroom in the Territory is susceptible of a finer display of goods than this will prove, with its numerous windows reaching nearly from floor to ceiling. The corner of Front and Benton streets is a heavy gainer in appearance from this building.

Jos. Baker and Chas. Price erected an elegant residence on St. Charles street. It is a two story brick, eight or more large rooms, and cost \$8,000. E. R. Wilton, contractor.

F. C. Roosevelt, above town. Two story brick dwelling, 22x32, cost \$1,800. Wilton, contractor.

The Episcopal Church, on Bond street. This fine brick building is nearly completed, and is an ornament to the town. It is gothic in style, 30x60 feet, and will cost when finished at least \$4,000. Wilton, contractor.

W. S. Stacking. Two frame buildings on Main street, each 16x32 feet, one and a half story, and cost \$2,000 apiece. Wilton, contractor.

First National Bank. This building is a handsome two story brick, on the corner of Main and Power streets, and was built expressly for the bank. It is 20x33 feet in size, and cost \$5,500. Wilton, contractor.

Harris & Strong. These gentlemen, who have embarked in the livery business within the last year, have recently completed a fine brick stable, on Baker street. It is 36x59 feet, two stories, and cost \$3,000. Wilton, contractor.

Wm. Rowe, the superintendent of the Benton and Helena stage company, has built for himself a neat residence on Baker street. It is of brick, the main building being 17x30 feet, and the wing 14x20; is two stories high, and cost \$2,000. Wilton, contractor.

E. R. Wilton. Although kept pretty busy by other parties, our friend Wilton managed to find time to put up a very pretty dwelling for himself, on Baker street. It is what may be called an irregular mansard cottage, built of brick, two stories high, and cost \$2,200.

Jos. Hirschberg. One story frame dwelling on Baker street; 20x31 feet, cost \$1,300. Gus Senieur, contractor.

Mee & Wheelock. This is a large two-story frame building on Main street, near the corner of Bond. The upper floor is occupied as a lodge room by the Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity, and the lower floor is the home of the *River Press* (\$5 a year, finest paper—well, everybody knows the usual formula). The building is 25x60 feet, and cost \$2,500. Senieur, contractor.

Mrs. Hollins. One story frame building on Washington avenue, 14x26 feet, cost \$500. Senieur, contractor.

Thos. D. Wright. One story frame, corner Franklin and Arnoux streets, 26x26 feet, and cost \$1,200. A very neat little residence, and a good piece of work. Senieur, contractor.

L. H. Rosencrans has kept up with the spirit of the times, and has erected a nice little dwelling on Choteau St. Another "commercial speculation," we presume, as Lute is still single; but we've been fooled that way before, and a trip to the States looks suspicious. It is a one-story frame, 24x24 feet, and cost \$1,100. Senieur, contractor.

Wm. Allen has put up a twin house to Rosencrans, on Bond street. It is also a one story frame, 24x24, and cost \$1,100. Senieur, contractor.

Ed. Dunne has been putting up a very neat brick dwelling house on Main street. It is a commodious one story building, 34x34, and cost \$2,000. Senieur, contractor.

T. E. Collins. One story frame, on Washington avenue, 14x20 feet, cost \$900. Senieur, contractor.

Thos. Todd. This gentleman has put up a very pretty story and a half residence on St. Charles street, near Baker & Price's. It is a frame, 30x37, and cost \$2,500. Senieur, contractor.

Peter Smith put up for himself a one story frame dwelling on Washington street, 24x30, at a cost of \$700.

On Benton street is seen a very pretty brick dwelling, which is nearly completed. It is

the residence of Mr. Rufus Payne, and is a two-story mansard, 22x37 feet, and will cost \$3,000.

R. S. Price has put up a story and a half brick residence on the corner of Franklin and Arnoux street. The brick work was done by Storer & Storer, and the carpenter work by Cross. It is 18x26 feet, and the cost is estimated at \$2,000.

August Beckman has kept right up with the rest, and now has a nice residence on Franklin street. It is built of brick, is 35x40 feet, and cost \$3,000.

Rafus Payne moved into a new blacksmith shop this fall. It is situated on Franklin street, is a frame, and cost \$1,000.

Joe Dillaky. One story frame on Washington avenue, 24x24, cost \$800.

Geo. Bert. One story frame, on Washington avenue, 24x24, cost \$800.

A good many improvements and additions were made to buildings already up, notably the following, by Senieur:

Addition to the School House, on Franklin street; brick, 46x34, cost \$3,000.

Kitchen, etc., to the Choteau House; cost \$1,000.

Addition to J. F. Murphy's residence, on Main street; \$600.

Addition to Geo. Clendennin's residence, on Front street; \$200.

Improvements in Thos. Curtis's residence, on Front street; \$300.

Addition to McDevitt's stables, cor. Main and Benton streets; \$700.

Wetzel's warehouse. Between Front and Main, 25x75 feet, \$1,500.

Peterson. Improvements on house, \$200.

In addition to the improvements above, a number of new buildings will be erected as soon as spring opens.

The Benton Hotel Company, a joint stock association formed last fall, will commence as early as possible the erection of a magnificent hotel building, on the levee, corner of Front and Bond street. The plans have not yet been received from the East, and so we are unable to give as complete a description as we would desire. It will be of brick, will be three stories high, and 80x110 feet on the ground. The main entrance will be on Front street, and there will be an entrance on the Bond street front and on the levee. The estimated cost is \$30,000, and when completed it will be a structure of which Benton may well be proud.

Like most of our business houses, the firm of T. C. Power & Bro. are finding their present quarters too small for their rapidly growing trade, and they have broken ground next to their present commodious building for the erection of a similar one as soon as spring opens. It will be the same size, 30x90, will be of brick, two stories high, and will cost \$10,000. It is the intention to use the new building for the dry goods department, while the present one will be devoted to groceries, etc. Storer & Storer are the contractors.

W. S. Wetzel will put up a fine brick residence on Bond street next summer, at a cost of about \$4,000.

The brothers Caldwell, we understand, will erect a brick residence on St. Charles street early in the year; estimated cost, \$4,000.

Louis Heitman will put up a \$2,000 brick residence; location at present undecided.

L. H. Rosencrans will put up a fine brick, on the corner of Front and Bond streets, a description of which will be found in the article on Storer & Storer's business on 1st page.

These are all the new buildings of which we have positive knowledge, but rumor is busy in respect to many new schemes in the building line, and we are confident that a building boom will strike our town next year which will send it rapidly to the front among the cities of the great Northwest.

The Masonic Ball.

A short time ago the Masonic fraternity of Fort Benton decided to give a dancing party, and committees were appointed who took the matter in hand, and the result of their efforts was one of the most enjoyable parties, last Monday evening, it has ever been our good fortune to attend. The heavy fall of snow for the few days just previous, and the bitter cold weather, prevented many from the outside coming who would doubtless have been there, but in spite of this fact and the open efforts of some persons to deter others from attending, the commodious dining room of the Choteau House was well filled, and all apparently enjoyed themselves to the top of their bent. Dancing commenced about 9 o'clock and continued until 1, when the company retired to the parlors, to return to partake of a most elegant supper dispensed by polite and attentive waiters. After supper dancing was resumed, and light hearts and flying feet kept time to the inspiring and excellent music until about 4 o'clock, when those present were conveyed to their homes in sleighs provided for the purpose by the efficient management. On every side we hear expressions of satisfaction at the pleasure provided by the Masons for their guests, and we predict that future parties given by the fraternity will be even more largely attended and fully as enjoyable, even though some of the *bon ton* of Benton should, as on the present occasion, make themselves conspicuous by their absence and their endeavors to throw cold water on the affair.

Ringwald Bros. & Co.

Will send any goods desired C. O. D. with privilege of examining, providing customers will pay express charges. Parties living in the vicinity of Helena, entrusting them with their orders by mail, can rely upon getting the best quality of goods as well as low prices and all orders will receive prompt attention.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS.

Christmas Trees and Exercises at the Churches and School House.

Christmas, the day looked forward to with longing hearts by children all over the civilized world as the time when Santa Claus—that mythical personage in whose existence it is the privilege of youth to implicitly believe—makes his annual visit and gladdens their hearts with presents; the time when the little girl hugs her new doll closely to her heart and thinks there never was such a nice "Jolly" as the flaxen-haired one (did it ever occur to our readers that nearly all dolls are born blondes) which she takes so much delight in dressing and covering with kisses, candy, molasses, and other kinds of "taffy;" the time when the small boy makes the house musical and his parents distracted with the sound of the melodious tin horn and harmonious drum, the day when he breaks a road on the hillside and nearly his own neck, and maketh it dangerous for pedestrians with his new handle; Christmas, the day which bringeth all these good and blessed (?) things has come and gone, and young Benton is happy, unconscious of the fact that the old folks are worrying over the problem of how to keep Jack Frost from taking up his residence inside of their domiciles, with no coal in the market and wood \$12 to \$15 a cord, and scarce at that.

Keeping up the time-honored custom, the Episcopal and Catholic churches provided Christmas trees for the children of their Sabbath schools, while the school children, aided by generous contributions from a number of citizens, got up a Christmas tree of their own, so that there is probably no boy or girl in Benton who did not receive a present of some sort by which to remember the Christmas time of 1880.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Held its Christmas tree festivities on Friday evening, in the Court House, which was largely attended. The room, inside of the railing, was decorated with flags, and the tree, handsomely decked with presents and good things, made a very nice appearance from the front. The exercises commenced with a dust by Mrs. Dr. Turner and Mr. R. S. Price, after which followed singing by the children and by the choir, a solo by Fay Turner, a little girl eight years of age, and which was very sweetly rendered and earned for her hearty applause, and a solo by Miss Phoebe Wright, the children joining in the chorus. The presents from the tree were then distributed, and, after a few remarks by the pastor, Rev. S. C. Blackiston, and the singing of the Doxology, the audience filed out to the accompaniment of tooting horns, dropping apples—and crying babies.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE.

The exercises at the School House came off Saturday evening, and, despite the inclement weather, a large crowd gathered to encourage the young folks, who had taken so much pains to get up an entertainment that would please. To the teachers, Mr. E. R. Clingan and Miss M. E. Finnigan, and the scholars, who, with the exception of some slight assistance in the decoration of the tree from a few ladies, performed all the labor of collecting funds, purchasing presents and fitting up the room, much praise is due for the manner in which the entertainment was conducted. Neatly printed programmes of the exercises had been distributed with the invitations, and the programme was carried out with one or two exceptions of music by volunteers who were unable to attend by reason of illness in the families. In entertainments where all do well it is hard to particularize, and we will only remark on the pains taken by the young ladies in their costumes for some of the pieces, and the general excellence of the performance. The tree was loaded down with presents, and the children consequently were happy. We learn that the scholars collected \$127 on the outside, and \$47 was taken in at the door; \$117 was expended for the tree and presents, and that, after other incidental expenses are paid, there will be a balance of \$20 or \$25, which will be placed in the bank for the benefit of the school.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Christmas tree at the Catholic Church was the last of the three, and took place on Sunday evening at the new church. The church was filled, and we noticed some who were standing. After the opening ceremonies there was some choice music by the choir and then Father Camp delivered an interesting address to the school, in which he spoke of the origin of the custom of giving presents on these occasions. He spoke of the priceless gift which the Heavenly Father had given his children in his only-begotten son, and urged upon the scholars of the Sabbath school the necessity of regular attendance. At the close of the reverend gentleman's remarks the choir and the children sang "Gather Around the Christmas Tree," and the children gathering around, the presents were distributed, after which the congregation was dismissed.

And so ended the Christmas festivities for this season at Fort Benton. No doubt many of the children who participated will long remember the merry Christmas of 1880, and, when they grow to manhood and womanhood will look back to these halcyon days and sigh for the time when they grew sick with a surfeit of good things, and their only sorrow was caused by the midnight sensations and their inability to eat more.

Lester's Lunch Room is kept open day and night.