Stratton leaves to-night for the West, where she will spend a number of weeks visiting friends and relatives....Emma Ingraham of THE WATCHMAN force has returned from a two weeks' vacation, and Etta Thompson, also of this office, is spending a week's vacation at her home in Waitsfield....Colonel J H. Lucia was in Vergennes last week....A little child of G. W. Bolton, eleven months old, had its arm severely sprained on Sunday....Miss Sarah Hoyt has severed her connection with THE WATCHMAN composing force....Mr. and Mrs H Fales are at present visiting with their son in Boston, but expect soon to go to Florida to spend the winter....Mrs. Seely Pomeroy of Ogdensburg is visiting at Mr. H W. Drew's....Mrs. S. D Hale of Keokuk, Iowa, is visiting her niece, Mrs. John P. Flanders....C. H. Ferrin is quite sick with tonsilitis....Mary Drew returned from Northboro, Mass., on Thursday....Geo. B Shepherd has almost entirely recovered his health, and expects to resume his studies at Harvard after the holiday vacation....Jennie Phinney is suffering from an attack of erysipelas.....Ella S. Cram is quite sick, having been confined to her bed for the past week.

Mr. Editor:—On the death of the late Samuel Wells, mention was made, among other things, of his "well-prepared attempt, *which only slumbers for a little*, to furnish the village with a proper water supply from Berlin Pond"—to which was added: "And when the village finally decides to meet this imperative necessity, it will be found that the work is all plainly mapped out in Mr. Wells' exhaustive report of 1873." Who that attended our village meeting Monday evening, and witnessed the enthusiasm and unanimity with which that almost precise scheme was adopted—especially of those who remembered the thankless greeting it received ten years ago—could fail to realize the almost prophetic truthfulness of the foregoing expressions? The late committee on estimates, whose admirable report was so favorably received Monday evening, are foremost in appreciation of the accuracy and value of Mr. Wells' report. The variation in the two estimates is confined almost entirely to the difference in the cost of material. All honor, then, say we, to the memory of him to whom credit is pre-eminently due in this behalf. P.

Seminary Hill.—School opened Monday, December 10, with about one hundred and fifty students. This is a good number for the winter, and it bids fair to be a very profitable and enjoyable term....Professor Bishop and wife spent a part of their vacation at his home in New Jersey. He has returned, once more to take up his school duties, and she has gone to her home in that state....Lyceum was organized last Friday, and the following officers were elected for the first half of the term: President, Mr. E K. Fish; vice-president, Miss M. M. Kinsley; secretary, Miss M. L. Hubbard; treasurer, Miss M. Chamberlain; executive committee, Mr. Hillery, Misses Foster and Wyman....Mr. Eaton meets his singing class at "Shady Rill" Friday evenings. He has nearly fifty students.....President Beeman went away on his work yesterday..... We were glad to see Charles Scoville with us once more. He is home from Yale to spend the holidays.

East Montpelier.—There is to be a Christmas festival at the old brick church in this place on Tuesday evening, December 25th.... Miss Mary Lawson was taken ill with pneumonia last Sunday and died yesterday morning at the home of Miss Mercie Clough. The funeral will be at the church to-morrow at one o'clock. ....S W. Arms seemed better Monday and hope revived, but Monday night and yesterday morning he lay in a stupor....N W. Johnson, mentioned last week as going to visit his sick mother, found on his arrival that she was dead before he had received her message. She died the 10th inst., of pneumonia, after an illness of four days. She was at the home of her step-son, John Pike....The youngest son of E W. Ormsbee is recovering from an attack of membranous croup....Hiram Templeton went to Moretown last Monday to attend the funeral of his sister....Mrs Morgan intends to return to her home in Detroit in time to join the Christmas festivities there.... There will be a concert at the Center midway between Christmas and New Year's. Music, recitations and a Christmas tree make up the order of exercises....Prayer-meeting at Horace Bliss' next Friday evening....The pig owned by William Ormsbee was killed recently and weighed four hundred and twelve pounds.... Hard colds are very common. Several people are confined to the house....Austin Foster's youngest daughter is under the doctor's care ....They have a new organ at Mr. Foster's, which doubtless means music-lessons for Miss Hattie and Master Henry....The ladies social improvement society will have a Christmas tree at the Morse school-house on Tuesday evening, December 25th

Waitsfield.—The lyceum in the north part of the town is a successful affair, some of the talented people of that locality having an opportunity to spread themselves on the important questions of the day. It is a pity that there is not sufficient enterprise in the village, where there is so much dormant talent that needs a "shaking up," to get up a lyceum.... The residence of the late Hon. Ira Richardson has been much improved and beautified by his son Clarence. The store has been moved south of all the buildings, thereby giving a nice dooryard and driveway. The painter's brush has also done much to make the buildings look attractive....The schools in town are now under good headway. The village schools are taught by Lydia A. Bigelow and Sarah Thompson, the former teaching in the high and the latter in the primary department. The school in district No. 1 is taught by Mattie Prentiss, No. 2 by Mary Mills of Burlington, No. 3 by Susie Gleason, No. 4 by Frank Holden, and No 5 by Ida F. Hastings....Dr. Howe's youngest child, a little girl one year and nine months old, died, after a short illness, last Sunday morning, it is supposed from a worm fit....Uncle Harry Jones received the congratulations of many of his friends last Monday, it being his seventy-fifth birthday....The Good Templars will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of their organization on Friday evening of this week by an oyster supper. Lots of other good things to eat, and a general good time....George Eddy, with his family, has removed to Richmond, and his son Charlie is living on the farm which he occupied.....M. L. Richardson has improved his store and put in a large stock, and is now doing a good business.

North Montpelier.—There is to be a Christmas tree at the brick church, East Montpelier, on the evening of December 25 in which both churches are to unite. All are cordially invited to be present and unite in making it a grand gala time for the young folks, as well as an enjoyable occasion for the older ones.....Next singing-school at Union vestry hall this (Wednesday) evening....Byron Wilbur, who has been at work for Mrs. J Q Allen for the past two or three years, started for Iowa this week Monday....We have a first-class barber settled in our village now in the person of Frank De Lottinville. Give him a call....The East Calais people mean business on the telephone to run from that village to North Montpelier. They commenced getting out the poles Saturday, and began drawing and setting some Monday. .....The teacher in our school, Mr. Parker, is giving excellent satisfaction.

Middlesex.—Rev. Mr. Bemis has so far recovered from the injury to his hand, a few weeks since, as to resume his pastoral duties here. He has occupied his pulpit for two Sundays past....Mrs Sarah J. Williams has returned to her native town after residing in West Haven, Conn, for about a year. She appears to be of the opinion that this is a good place to emigrate from and equally as good to return to ...O H Richardson is putting up an addition to the Ainsworth saw-mill. ..Mrs. D. P. Carpenter is quite ill, and her daughter (Mrs. Lee) and her husband from St. Johnsbury are with her....Dr. W. G. Church calls the attention of the public to his nice assortment of holiday goods....David Ward has taken a trip to Attica, Indiana, to visit his daughter living there.

Middlesex Center.—School closed for the winter last Saturday....Rev. J. Edward Wright preached to about fifty last Sunday....F. H. Dewey of Williamstown is agitating the subject of a writing-school here....Edgar Hale of Montpelier, who was married recently, has moved on to his farm in "Bear Swamp."..... The thermometer fell about forty degrees last Friday night....J. A. Chapin has been laid by for repairs for a week past.

RICH new styles in furniture can be obtained in Boston of the manufacturer at remarkably low prices. Paine seems to be leading in this; already his immense stock is attracting people from near and far. We know of no other establishment in America that carries so large a stock of nice furniture ready to deliver at once, and at such remarkably low prices. A visit to his store, 48 Canal street, opposite Maine depot, will prove to any one what we say to be correct.

Waterbury.

REV. W. J. JOHNSON went to Barton last Monday to fill a lecture engagement.

WARREN tells his men, we learn, that he will give them all work until he can build again, and none need leave unless they wish.

SEVERAL patriotic and disinterested citizens spoiled suits of clothes, Saturday evening, in removing greasy hides at the tannery fire.

SAMUEL PARCHER, for $80, has taken the job to grade the new street leading from Main to the Cooley manufacturing company grounds.

MR. M. M. KNIGHT was call to Johnson Saturday by the serious illness of an elder brother, Mr. L. M Knight, a merchant of that town. Apoplexy was feared.

THERE will be Christmas exercises at the Congregational church Monday evening. Instead of tree there will be a Jacob's ladder, with presents, singing and recitations.

THE warning for the first annual village meeting, Monday, January 24, is posted. It should be well attended, the report of the first year's doings understood, and a good start for the second year obtained.

GEORGE N GOVE is rapidly closing out those three carloads of sleighs mentioned last week, notwithstanding the snow holds off and Vennor predicts summer weather in January. Going, going, and if you do not come early, gone they will be. No more this winter.

EFFIE KELLOGG, a daughter of John D. Kellogg, living about a mile from the village, was attacked with diphtheria last week, and died on Thursday. Her age was about fifteen years. Mr. and Mrs Kellogg have the warmest sympathy of their friends and neighbors in their severe bereavement.

IF any of the villagers wish to call on their suburban friends in the evening, it may serve to encourage the interchange of social courtesies to know that street lamps have been for a week or two put up along Stowe street to George Demmon's, and at the easterly and westerly extremities of Main street.

AT the Edwin Dillingham post of the Grand Army of the Republic, Friday, the following officers were elected: Commander, Charles Wells; senior and junior vice-commanders, respectively, J. W Sleeper and George Brown; officer of the day, R. Bickford; quartermaster, F. B Taylor; quartermaster-sergeant, Frank Carpenter; commissary, I H. Elliott; adjutant, T. T. Farrell; officer of the guard, Hartwell Moody; chaplain, J. E. Foster.

F. S. ROLFE has a fine lot of new sleighs, of his own make, now finished and ready for sale at his old stand near the railway station. These sleighs are made of white oak that did not grow on a red oak stump, and ironed with Norway iron that was not rolled in an American mill. Besides being made in tasteful styles and of the best material, these sleighs are very finely painted and beautifully striped. Call and examine them and test the truth of this recommendation.

SATURDAY morning the locomotive H. H. Locklin, on the local passenger going north, burst her water pipe while standing at the station here. The loud report frightened several horses standing at the station, among them one belonging to J. R. Langdon of Montpelier. Smith Hale had hold of the reins and Mr. Langdon had just poised himself on one foot, and was in the act of stepping into the wagon when the horse shot out from under the shed and was not restrained till the hotel was reached. An instant more might have resulted in a serious accident.

"VIN" STRAW is a devotee of the violin and a very creditable performer on that bewitching instrument. At Camilla's concert he got a front seat, prepared to take in all the music the little foreign lady would send. Under the manipulations of her magic bow "Vin" rose to the third heaven of ecstatic delight, took off his spectacles, laid them on the seat and surrendered himself unconditionally to the spell of the petite magician. He wandered away home unmindful of the venerable "helps to read" which for many a year have pieced out his declining vision. The "specs" were discovered by some of the performers and safely conveyed to their entranced owner.

CAMILLA URSO'S concert, Thursday evening, was one of the finest entertainments ever given in this village. Hotel hall was filled with a highly-appreciative audience, which the wonderful musician did her best to entertain, and succeeded. Repeated encores greeted each number on the programme assigned to Camilla, and she held her hearers spell bound by the exquisite charm and sweetness of her playing. Especially subduing was her execution of "The Last Rose of Summer" given for an encore to the "Carnival of Venice." Her audience seemed to present a striking instance of suspended animation, except so far as a facial expression of intent and absorbing interest would have dispelled the illusion. The unimpassioned lady had a second time a very impassioned recall, to which she graciously responded, when her bewitched listeners gave her a reluctant parting round of applause.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Waterbury village is the center of traffic for so large a stretch of country and so many people are now on the anxious seat about Christmas presents, what to get and where to procure it, that in a spirit of seasonable good will we have gone the rounds of our advertisers and patrons to gather the material for a few helpful suggestions, and now "tip the wink" to our readers as to the places where they can find gifts useful or ornamental, homely or esthetic

M. C. CANREDY and H. E Boyce will meet demands for the Christmas goose, for turkeys and chickens, or for the substantial necessities in which they trade, if one has his tender instincts stirred for the poor.

AT W. H. Ashley's, F. B Taylor's and Deacon Mussey's one can buy tea, coffee, nuts and raisins, a sack of flour, a package of sugar, confectionery and other luxuries and necessities, for charity or for holiday festivities.

WE hardly know what are the attractions at Evans' drug store. He has perfumery, cigars, candy and notions, at least, and if one's holiday festivities have deranged digestion "Mel's" mysterious-looking jars and bottles probably contain something that will kill or cure.

J. C. GRIGGS will show seekers for useful gifts slippers in all styles and prices, for ladies and gentlemen; overshoes, nice and high, for ladies and misses, and all the leading styles of foot-wear for misses and boys, ladies and gentlemen. He also has the famous White sewing-machine, which has gained a wide reputation for unrivaled excellence. A spler did thing for a Christmas or New Year's present, or for any other day in the year.

ARMS & HAINES are grand headquarters for everything to please the inner man, woman or child. They have staple and fancy groceries suitable for the season, foreign fruits of all kinds, the finest Florida oranges ever seen in town, Malaga grapes, raisins, figs, dates, prunes, fresh nuts of many kinds, fresh canned fruit and meat, lobster, sardines, etc., sauces, jellies, and everything in a first-class grocery trade. Such a store is the best kind of a place to stock up with holiday presents of the most tempting and acceptable kind.

A. T. STRAW & Co. are a little outside the business quarter, but they should not be forgotten. They have articles of furniture which make most acceptable Christmas presents for father or mother, husband or wife, son or daughter Some of these articles are comfortable camp chairs, elegant willow rocking and easy chairs, stuffed easy chairs, chairs for children and chairs for everybody and every purpose. And if one's purse will permit and one has the disposition, there are black walnut and painted chamber sets for which somebody may be languishing.

IN glassware and crockery, W. E. Carpenter and Al. Atherton hold the fort. Few wares are more attractive than glass and pottery, and few are more useful or always more acceptable. Our local columns give some of the details of the attractions at these stores. China, plain and decorated, in single pieces, in tesets, in bread and milk sets; majolica ware in mugs, pitchers, plates, cups and saucers; plain and decorated tea and dinner sets; standard and hanging lamps, and many things in glass and crockery which a visit will discover can be had of these tradesmen.

THE dry goods and fancy stores have no monopoly of the things desirable for presents. The hardware stores contain many articles which have exceedingly useful and abiding qualities. Robinson and Sheple, proprietors of separate establishments, are young men with an eye to the comfort and convenience of the household. Either of them will show, among other things, children's trays, crumb trays and brushes, pocket and table cutlery, shears and scissors, skates, bird cages, toilet sets, servers, Brittannia ware, plain and fancy tinware, carving knives, and that boon to the housewife, Mrs. Potts' sadirons.

IF one is to jewelry inclined, or articles in gold or silver, either of the two enterprising craftsmen, Scott and Keene, have amply anticipated all reasonable wants. If one is in doubt or troubled, a call at their establishments may bring sunshine and gladness. They have silverware in great variety and beautiful designs, knives, forks, spoons, nut-crackers, nut-picks, gold and silver watches, and an endless variety of articles, a few of which are named in the local columns of this paper—and there are scores of others which cannot be enumerated Go early and look them over, before the rush begins. In his new store, opposite the bank, besides his jewelry and silverware, Mr Keene has a large stock of notions, and has also made especial provision for the children. If the business notices of these tradesmen in this and previous issues of THE WATCHMAN have been conned, many gift-seekers have either had their perplexities removed or learned where the comforting operation can be performed.

IN dry and fancy goods Waterbury has no rival in the county. M M. Knight, Richardson & Fullerton, and C. E Wyman, keep large and varied stocks of fancy, useful and very substantial and comfortable goods. At one or all of these stores the windows, counters and shelves show neck and pocket handkerchiefs, fichus, laces, tidies, shopping-bags, silks, cashmeres, prints, cottons, velvets—broaded and in colors—and scores of other articles dear to the feminine heart. For solid comfort there are cloaks that defy the assaults of Boreas. In knit goods there are hoods, Jerseys, underwear, mittens, etc.; for men and boys, pocket handkerchiefs, scarfs—white and checked—and other things, from a neck-tie up to a stylish suit of clothes At each of these places is a variety of unnamable articles, all nice for Christmas and New Year's gifts. One's eyes and tongue, and the courtesy of proprietors and clerks, will supply what the printer has omitted.

Northfield.

THE graded school will not be in session next week.

TELEPHONES have been put into Hazelton's market and the *News* office.

THE drama, "Neighbor Jackwood," is being rehearsed by members of the Universalist society, and will be presented during the winter.

SOCIABLES will be held by the Methodists Wednesday evening at their vestry in charge of Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Clapp, and by the Episcopalians at their rooms in the depot building.

HARVEY S. WILLEY'S many friends will be glad to know that he has obtained a pension which gives him a considerable part of a comfortable living, and quite a liberal amount of back pay besides.

CHRISTMAS will be observed by all the churches this year. The most elaborate will be by the Episcopalians. They have service in the church at three P M Monday, at which the children sing carols; after this they adjourn to Armory hall, where supper will be served and the gifts distributed in the evening. There will also be service at St. Mary's church Tuesday forenoon. The Congregationalists will have a grove (or as some irreverently term it, a clump) of Christmas trees Monday evening; there will be some musical and other exercises by the children. The Methodists will have several trees, and there will be music by the children Tuesday evening. At the Universalist church there will be a tree and some literary exercises Monday evening.

THE county Good Templars' Union was held in the Universalist church last Thursday and was a pleasant and successful meeting. The forenoon session was private. The exercises in the afternoon were music, poem, etc., and a discussion. In the evening an address was delivered by Rev. W. J. Johnson of Waterbury. Dinner and supper were served by the ladies of Northfield and Gould-ville lodges. The officers elected for the year ensuing are as follows: W. C. T., Dr. N. W. Gilbert of Northfield; W. V T., Ida E Chase of Montpelier; W. secretary, F. T. Egerton of Northfield; W. F S., Inez Pierce of Cabot; W. T., H. G. Ellis of Roxbury; W. C., Rev S. H. Wheeler of Waterbury; W. M., Wm. E Long of Waitsfield; W. G., Celia Robinson of Montpelier; W. sentinel, Marshall Bailey of Worcester. The next union will be held at Montpelier in February.

GEORGE W. METCALF arrived Monday night. He had a run of fever in Philadelphia and was attended by his brother Fred, who is also expected home this week....Mrs. Cornwall of Babylon, R I., is visiting at Dr. Nichols'.... Rev. I. P. Booth has been in New York for a week or two....George C. Sanborn has been in Boston the past week selecting holiday goods.

Fayston.—Timothy and Susan Chase have made application to the town for aid, which was promptly furnished by Overseer G O. Boyce. It now remains to be determined by the courts whether Waitsfield or Fayston will pay the bill. Waitsfield claims that they have gained a residence in this town, and we claim that Waitsfield has aided the family at sundry times during the past six years....The schools are now in good running order with the following teachers: District No. 1, J. B. Thompson; No 2, Clara M. Eaton; No. 3 Alta W. Crossett; No. 4, Kate B Prentiss; No. 5, Lola Spaulding; No. 6, Hattie L. Kilpatrick.... Henry McGurk has sold the Sarah A. McAllister place to John Donahue for $1 800..... Much sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs. R. A. Maxwell, who have lost their only child from pneumonia

East Calais.—The union Sunday-school will hold their Christmas celebration in the church on Tuesday evening. In addition to the exercises of the school, there will be a short address by Mr. James Ramage of South Woodbury.... It is a settled fact that we are to have a telephone. The poles were cut last week, and the work will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible this week....Marcus Waite is moving into his new house....Mary Dwinell has gone to Winchester, Mass., to spend the winter....George Whitcher has moved to Plainfield....The village school will take a recess next Monday and Tuesday....Byron Wilbur started last Monday morning for south-western Iowa, intending to make that his home for awhile. Ira Daniels will take his place at Mrs. Allen's.....Neale White of Tufts college is expected home to spend the holidays.

Roxbury.—The diphtheretic sore throat has made sad the home of Harry Russell, he having recently lost two children by the terrible disease....James E. Dunn, for several years past a resident of this town, but more recently a brakeman on the Central Vermont railroad, fell beneath the cars of his train at Williston, last Thursday morning, and the wheels, passing over one arm, crushed it in a horrible manner. He was taken to Mary Fletcher hospital in Burlington, where he died the following afternoon....Colonel A. C. Brown of Montpelier is putting in a telephone line from this place to Northfield, which is soon to be in working order....Jones W. Ferris has moved to the village....Mrs. A. J. Averill has been quite seriously ill....G E. Batchelder of Norwich is teaching a series of writing-schools at the village school-house.....The ladies of the Universalist church are to have a festival and dramatic entertainment at the town hall next Wednesday evening.

Cabot.—Christmas is to be observed at the Congregational church next Sunday evening A general invitation is extended to all to put presents on the tree. Oyster supper in the vestry after the Christmas exercises.....The tenth anniversary of the woman's temperance crusade is to be celebrated next Sunday. Religious services at the Methodist church in the morning, at the Congregational church in the afternoon, and a mass temperance meeting at the Methodist church in the evening....Rev. Mr. Farnsworth of Marshfield preached at the Congregational church, in exchange with the pastor, last Sunday. His sermons were clear, concise and well delivered, receiving general commendation from his hearers....We have often seen nice jobs of work at Mires' blacksmith shop, but our attention was especially called to the ironing of a Portland sleigh, last week, which in point of workmanship is seldom excelled, if equalled, in this section.... Quite a number of our singers attended the musical convention at Marshfield last week. Professor Smith is very pleasantly remembered as a teacher of music in this place several years ago, as well as a very popular conductor of conventions in this vicinity.

East Corinth.—There will be a temperance meeting at the church, next Sunday evening, conducted by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. All are invited.....The school here is the best it has been for some time, although there are not as many scholars as there has been, owing to the stingy policy pursued by the district....Mrs. J. H. Chamberlain goes to New York this week....J K. Darling has gone to Chelsea to attend county court.

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT.—The Great Rock Island route has issued a new and most comprehensive cook book of one hundred and twenty-eight pages, filled with new and reliable receipts from the best caterers of this and other countries. No housewife can afford to be without it; and though worth one dollar, it will be sent to any address, post-paid, upon receipt of ten cents in stamps. As they will go like hot cakes, send at once to E. St. John, G. T. & P. A., Chicago, Illinois.

Barre.

TAVERNIER'S comedy company was greeted with a good audience, and a favorable impression was created.

THE glee club from the University of Vermont will give a concert in the town hall tomorrow evening.

THE seminary and academy have each received accessions to the number of students since the opening week.

A SOCIABLE by the young people's help and hope society is to be held in the Universalist vestry Thursday evening.

THE Catholic society in this place had the fact of their organization as a society spread on the town records last week.

REV. W. M. KIMMELL occupied the pulpit in the Universalist church at Williston, last Sunday, preaching in exchange with its pastor, Myra Kingsbury.

THE sociable at Mrs. B. W. Braley's, on Thursday evening last, was largely attended, and was a very enjoyable occasion. Music by Mrs. Braley and Seminary students enlivened the occasion.

THE ladies of the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union held a paper festival at the vestry of the Methodist church last Friday evening, and a general good time was had. The festival netted them some twenty dollars.

THE lecture by Chaplain McCabe was greeted with a good house, and the lecture in itself was a fine production and finely delivered, but the advertisement of a particular society on such an occasion was severely criticised by the best of people.

ON account of the lack of seating capacity, the Congregational people are thinking of making definite plans for the enlargement and reconstruction of their church the coming season. The plan meets the hearty approval of members of the congregation.

THE annual election of officers of Barre lodge, No. 929 Knights of Honor, occurred on Monday night, as follows: Lewis Keith, D; W D Hooker, V. D; O J. Howes, A. D.; O H. Reed, R; George P Boyce, F. R; George W. Tilden, treasurer; F. P. Willard, guide; F H Hopkins, guardian; E H. Smith, secretary; O. B. Boyce, chaplain. Representative to grand lodge, C. A. Wheaton; alternate, J. G Morrison. B. W. Braley was elected medical examiner.

THERE was quite a gathering of friends at the residence of S. H. Nyson Monday evening, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Nye. A very pleasant time was had....Sanford Smith, an old resident of the town, died at his home last Thursday evening....Alden Freeman and family go to Boston to spend a few weeks....A. W Preston and family returned home last week. ....G. W. Lang has bought out L. J. Mack's sign and carriage painting business. Mr. Lang has had experience, and will do a good job... Miss Freelove Aldrich has been quite sick for a few weeks past, with no immediate prospect of convalescence....L J. Mack is to run the engine at the granite shop, taking the place of L E Heath, who is soon to go to Woodbury Center to look after business interests there... O B Boyce, grand dictator of the Knights of Honor, spent last Friday and Saturday at Middlebury and Jacksonville in the interest of the order ....S. O Wells has returned from his western trip, having spent several weeks in the West taking orders for granite work....Mr. and Mrs J. G. Morrison were in town Sunday .. Mrs. Parker of South Barre fell, last week, and has been almost helpless since....Rev. R. S Owen left for South Stukely, P. Q., last Wednesday. ...William Mears now drives a span of elegant black horses, undoubtedly the best pair in town....Miss Belle Martin has completed the learning of her trade, and is now employed by Miss Willard....Byron Bylow was married last week and took a wedding trip to St. Albans and other places....Mr. E. W. Bisbee is in attendance upon county court at Chelsea.... J B. Chamberlain is not able to attend to active duties on account of his eyes ...Uncle Dana had a paralytic shock last week, but is gradually recovering from it. His son came home from Massachusetts on Saturday.

Elmore.—R A. Gay has his new house ready for occupancy....Jerre Lee has so far improved as to be able to be about town again ....Christmas tree at the church, with the usual exercises of speaking, singing, etc.....J. T Parker lost a nice ox last week....Mr. White from Ohio, a brother of Mrs. L. L. Camp, is visiting in town.

Danville.—Rev. Mr. Sweatt, Methodist, exchanged with Rev. Mr. Tracy of North Danville last Sunday....The remains of Mrs. Joseph Switser of Holyoke, Mass., formerly of this town, were brought here last Friday night and buried in the village cemetery....Willie, son of C. F. Kittredge, has been very sick with the canker-rash.....Charles Wilson is at home and is helping his brother-in-law, F. J. Preston, through the holidays.....The band went to Peacham last Friday night to play for a promenade....Look out for the mumps; they are around....The school on the academy opened last Monday with about sixty scholars.

Morrisville.—Rev. W. A. Bushee of the Congregational church preached a very practical sermon upon *not* thinking too much of self, taking David as an illustration.....Christmas services are to be held at the several churches. ....The students at the academy held a largely attended lyceum on Friday evening last. The discussion was engaged in with interest....The ladies' circle met at the Congregational vestry last Friday afternoon....Green Mountain lodge of Good Templars is in a very flourishing condition....E. Pinney and J. J. Robbins started on Monday for Chicago, where they have secured positions....The masons are to hold a public installation of officers on Thursday evening of this week.

Groton.—Lumbermen are feeling rather uneasy, with their teams and help on hand, which they cannot use to advantage until more snow falls.... People in this vicinity can now get their goods quite cheap, as Warren Estabrooks of St. Johnsbury has opened a store here and intends to keep a complete stock, besides grain and feed, which makes competition very lively....H. C. Clark arrived home last Wednesday, after a four months' trip through the West....Allen Hood has been taking a short vacation among old acquaintances, and returned to Boston this week Monday....Rev Francis Morrison is reported just alive. John Orr is also very low with pneumonia....The scholars attending school out of town this winter are W. B Darling at Montpelier and Charles Keenan at Newbury.

Peacham.—Rev. Lewis Grout occupied the desk December 16, morning and evening, and spoke of educational and missionary work among the four long-neglected races in America—the African, the Indian, the Chinese, and that portion of the untutored Anglo-Saxon race which has its home in the mountainous regions of Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. His evening discourse was addressed to the young people, of whom there are many in the good parish of Peacham....Preparations are being made for Christmas eve... Rev. S. S. Martyn is taking a few weeks' vacation.... D. Harvey is still in a critical state of health. ....The church aid society give a sociable at the town hall next Friday night. All are invited....The Danville band gave a promenade concert in the town hall, last Friday night, to a good house.

Stowe.—The three religious societies in the village are going to unite this year and hold their Christmas services at the Unity church. A committee of three from each society has been appointed, and met at Mrs. Dr. Ide's Monday evening of this week to make arrangements.... The Lamoille county Good Templars' union was held here Wednesday of last week. Owing to the bad traveling there was a small delegation from other towns, but in the evening there was a full house to listen to Rev. Mr. Johnson's rousing temperance address, and it must be that every one felt amply repaid....Several of the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Conant made them a surprise visit last week Tuesday evening ...The ladies of the Congregational society held their sewing circle at Mrs. Porter's, Wednesday afternoon of last week....Willie Bennett has returned from Boston, and is to have a dancing-school at the town hall this winter. The first one was held Friday night. ....Several of the young people of this town went to Morrisville last Wednesday night to witness "Rebecca's Triumph," and the next evening a few went to Waterbury to the Camilla Urso concert ...Rumor says that Bert Crane and Walter Jackson are going West soon....The dance at Mrs. Foss', last Friday night, called together about forty couples, who whiled away a greater part of the night in the terpsichorean art.

North Randolph.—Dix Camp starts for Pierre, Dakota, the 24th.....Twenty-five couples attended the dance at Stanleys' hall last Tuesday.....E A. George has taken Eli Camp's Chelsea farm and moved on to it.... Water is very low in the streams and springs.

Marshfield.

THERE will be a promenade concert at hotel hall next Saturday evening.

ARCHIE COLE got run over by a team driven by A. H Davis, last Thursday, and received some bruises.

CHRISTMAS will be observed in this place this year quite extensively. Services and trees at the Universalist and Methodist churches next Monday evening, and at Congregational church next Tuesday evening.

AUNT LYDIA PIKE, widow of Horace Pike, died at the home of her son, John G. Pike, in Cabot, last week, and funeral services were held at the Methodist church in this place last Thursday, conducted by Rev. C. H. Farnsworth, assisted by Rev. J. D Bailey. She was for many years a resident of this town, and a member of the Methodist church for nearly fifty years, having joined it in Cabot in 1835 She leaves a large circle of relatives and friends.

THE convention which had been announced to come off December 11 14, under the direction of Professor E. C. Smith of Nashua, N. H., was a very nice and well-conducted affair The chorus, though not so large as some, was good, showing some excellent talent, among whom we would notice Mrs. Charles Hamblin and Mrs. Frank Willard of East Montpelier, Mr. H. B. Whittier of Cabot, Mr. Charles Dudley, formerly of East Montpelier and now a resident of this town, Mrs. Ella Minott of Middlesex, Etta J. Hunt of Worcester, Mrs. E. V. Spencer of Marshfield and others. Among those present who assisted were Mr. S. S. Smith and wife and Mr. A. Foss of Plainfield, Mrs. Farnsworth and Mrs. Blaisdell of Marshfield, and many of our local singers in town and out. Under the direction of Professor Smith was brought out some good music, and good attention was given to all his instruction. Those of our singers who stayed at home have missed a good thing—one they could ill afford to lose if they wish to give their church-going people good singing. The book—Laus Deo—was full of good music, and the director brought it out to good advantage, showing that his recommendation as a first-class director was not given to the wrong man. The organ was handled by H. H. Scribner of Montpelier in a style worthy of a master. The violin, in the hands of Miss Georgie Smith, won many friends for her and proved that a lady can play that difficult instrument with ease and grace. Miss Smith, though only sixteen years old, showed great proficiency in playing, as was proved in the manner in which she handled some of Belini's difficult airs. The cornet playing by Burt M Shepard showed a good knowledge of the instrument and of reading music. Ira H. Edson played the clarionet, using one of Bertling's best instruments The concerts were not so well attended as they deserved, some prejudice respecting the place in which the convention was held showing itself more than it should in a civilized and music-loving community. The last concert was a grand affair, consisting of solos, vocal and instrumental, duets, quartets and choruses The "motion song," in which L. D. Nute was prominent, elicited much applause; also two songs by little Mary Burnap. Thanks are due the committee who arranged the hall and saw that everything for ease and comfort was in order. Also to Professor Smith for coming here and giving us such a treat, and we know we express the wish of all present this year that he will favor us again next year, and the annual festival of the Marshfield musical association become a fixed affair.

Randolph.—Rehearsals are being held of a cantata, entitled the "Birth of Christ," which is to be brought out Christmas evening in the town hall. Professor George W. Blanchard of Williamstown has charge of the music, and a deal of talent has been enlisted in the roll of singers. The little folks will see Santa Claus and receive their gifts from his hands....Dr. F. G. Wheatley was in town last week on his way to Norwich, where he is to settle....Nellie O Mead went to White River Junction Saturday to teach the primary school at that place. She will be greatly missed by the young people....The advance agent of a company of jubilee singers was in town Saturday, but failed to make an engagement.

Brookfield.—The second church, which has been undergoing repairs, will be rededicated the 27th inst....Flora Averill gives a public reading at Library hall on Thursday evening of this week, commencing at half-past seven o'clock....Miss M. J. Bennett has sold the unoccupied building, opposite the church, to Mr. Hubbard, son-in-law of Luther Blanchard.... The town meeting held on the 11th inst. was adjourned to January 2nd, the selectmen being instructed to investigate and report in regard to the comparative feasibility and expense of building a bridge, filling up for a road across the pond, or making a road around the north end of the pond....Saturday was the coldest day of the season. F. S. Kimball of Northfield froze both ears and his nose, and his man (Patterson), both his ears, while driving stock from Brookfield to Northfield.

West Randolph.—Rev. A. S. Swift is now stopping here.....H. W. Tewksbury's lecture "The Nineteenth Century," was well attended last Friday evening, although it was a bad night, and all went home feeling that they had been highly entertained and well paid for going to hear him. His subject was ably handled, his manner is attractive, and he holds his audience as if spell-bound....William Wood has sold the C. B. Pratt place, which he lately purchased, to Mrs. Samuel Riford and daughters, and has bought the house and lot lately occupied by the late Rev Mr Wheeler....Frank Mann is confined to the house with a cut foot, where he will probably have to stay for several days....Gertrude Jones has returned to Plainfield academy, in Connecticut, where she is teaching....The lumbermen are praying for snow, and those with teams on their hands who have wood and logs to haul off from the mountain are getting anxious.

West Topsham.—This village barely escaped a severe conflagration last Sunday. During the morning service at the church the alarm of fire was given, and the congregation, rushing out, found the tenement occupied by E V. Willey, over the store of Willey & Foss, on fire. Prompt measures were immediately taken and, happily for the village, the fire was soon under control. The store is situated in a central part of the village, and the buildings are so contiguous to each other that, had the store burned, all the buildings on the south side of Main street must have now been in ashes. The matter of building a reservoir and providing other protection against fire has been often agitated, and the danger threatened us will, we hope, prove effectual in loosening the purse strings of those who have heretofore opposed any movement in that direction. Messrs. Willey & Foss wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all who assisted in saving their property from destruction.

Bradford.—The people of West Bradford are to have a Christmas tree at the church on Tuesday evening next....Rev. S L. Bates of Newbury preached at the Congregational church, exchanging with Rev. A. Clark, last Sunday....Our new post-office is one of the best in the county, and perhaps in the state. It is elegantly fitted up with one hundred and sixty call and one hundred and twenty-six lock boxes with Sargent & Greenleaf locks. It also has a money-order department, etc....Rev. T P. Frost delivered his celebrated lecture, "The Infant of the Revolution," at West Fairlee last Saturday evening. December 15 preaching there on the following Sunday, in exchange with Rev Joseph Hamilton....The firm of Bixby & Hanson is dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Hanson has engaged with Brown, Durrel & Co., small-ware jobbers, of Boston, while Mr. Bixby has secured the services of Martha Lowe in the dry goods department, and will carry on the business....Rev. A. B. Truax of Brattleboro, formerly pastor of the Methodist church in this place, lectured before the reform club and sons of temperance at town hall on Friday evening. Subject, "Bible Wines."....Mrs. Charles H. Peters started for Chicago on Monday, to join her husband.... On New Year's eve, December 31st, will occur the opening of Stevens' block, Bisisdell's orchestra of Concord furnishing the music.... Joseph Worthley, for many years a citizen of Corinth and for a long time a member of the Methodist church at West Bradford, was buried at the latter place on Saturday....E. N. Everett and son Willie of Bath, N. H., were in town for a short visit the first of the week...We are pleased to say that George S. B. Stevens is really at work, having engaged himself for some days past shellacing the inside shutters for William B Stevens' new block....George E. Gaffield, our genial postmaster, has been opening his immense stock of holiday goods at his new store, and on Friday moved the post-office to its new and more commodious quarters He now has the largest stock of goods ever shown in town.....The Royal Arcanum, a mutual beneficiary brotherhood, is gaining in numbers and usefulness, holding its regular meeting the 10th, and a special meeting for conferring the degree on the 13th inst.

Williamstown.

IT is the turkey, and not the goose, that has laid "the golden egg" for our farmers this year. Quite a number of them are in luck in this respect this season.

ALREADY, we are told, some of our farmers are inconvenienced by low water in their springs, and the outlook for the winter in that direction is not the pleasantest.

REV. CHARLES NICHOLS will continue his labors here probably through another Sunday, if not longer. His unselfish work ought to commend itself to the hearty support of all who love the cause to which he is so devoted.

"I HAVE been to Williamstown two or three times this fall to trade, and I think I can do as well there as at Barre," is the remark a border-town man made to us the other day. Hope his example may be followed by others.

JOHN GREENE gets a "call" to go to New York city to work, and his family will return to their village home in Northfield at once. Mr. Greene will be in the employ of his brother Darwin, well known to our citizens, and who is a manufacturer in New York.

THE Congregationalist will have their Christmas festival at the town hall on Monday evening next. All societies are cord