

NORTHERN PACIFIC FARMER.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF WADENA COUNTY.

J. E. HALL, Editor and Proprietor.

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AT

WADENA, WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

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"On motion to advertise the letting of the job to corduroy the road south of Mr. Reynolds on the 21st of February, 1880. To be let to the highest bidder. Bids to be taken by the rod. The board has the privilege to reject any and all bids. Carried."

We extract the foregoing from the proceedings of the meeting of the town officers at Verdale which they magnanimously allow us to copy. (The italics are ours.) There may be some question as to the wisdom of the financial policy of a town Board which advertises to let its jobs to the "highest bidder."

Farm Department.

EDITED BY "RURAL JUNIOR."

The early Minnesota is without doubt the best early corn grown—N. Y. Herald.

This is the best time to get out material for fencing and a sufficient quantity of wood to the door to last until another winter.

Town meetings are near at hand. Select your town officers from your best men—men who will honestly and economically administer your town affairs.

Don't buy any farm machinery you do not need. Debt for farm machinery has ruined the financial prospects of thousands of farmers in the west. It is cheaper to learn from the experience of others than to pay for it ourselves.

Farmers. We produce all. We pay all. These are brief sentences but how true. From the soil is derived all the prosperity of this great domain contained within the borders of the United States. As producers we should reason together and take such measures and action as will insure the greatest success. Under this head—The Farm Department—Rural will offer such advice and suggestions as he may think advantageous from the light of his experience and observations as a farmer, to which he hereby invites criticism and discussion, which it is hoped will result to the mutual advantage of the general farmer in Minnesota.

Young men who are on the eve of starting in their business career cannot look too carefully into their personal habits. Your aim in life is to be successful. Little evil habits which may be thought to be mere trifles now may be in future the turning point for success or attended with disastrous consequences. In illustration of this, which applies to the occupation of the farmer as well as any other business pursuit, we relate the following as has appeared in one of the most prominent of the New York daily papers:

"Horace B. Clafin, the most prominent and wealthy dry goods merchant of New York was alone in his office one afternoon, when a young man, pale and care-worn, timidly knocked and entered. 'Mr. Clafin,' said he, 'I have been unable to meet certain payments because certain parties failed to do by me as they agreed to do, and I would like to have \$10,000. I come to you because you have been a friend to my father, and might be a friend to me.'

"Come in," said Clafin, "come in and have a glass of wine." "No," said the young man. "I don't drink." "Have a cigar then." "No, I never smoke." "Well," said the joker, "I would like to accommodate you, but I don't think I can." "Very well," said the young man. "I thought perhaps you might—Good day, sir." "Hold on. You don't drink?" "No." "Nor smoke, nor gamble, nor

anything of the kind?" "No, sir." "Well," said Mr. Clafin, with tears in his eyes, "you shall have it, and three times the amount if you wish. Your father let me have \$5,000 once and asked me the same question. No thanks—I owe it to you for your father's sake."

Mitchell vs. Christianity.

I see by the Duluth Tribune of the 20th that more than a column is devoted to the consideration of a sermon by a Rev. Mr. Bilbie of that city on the "Power of Prayer," in which an effort is made to throw discredit on a well-authenticated illustration used by that gentleman. Two facts remain in spite of the writer's efforts to throw discredit upon the case, viz: The mother offered the prayer, and the daughter's strength was restored. It matters not how many persons say they do not believe it was in answer to prayer. Negative testimony from parties not present does not invalidate facts. If I offer a prayer for a specific purpose, and that purpose be gained, I have a right to believe that it was given in answer to my prayer; and no matter how much you may try to prove that the result was brought about by some other cause than prayer, the fact remains that what I asked for I received. You might with as much reason assert that when a man goes to a store, asks for 20 yards of muslin, and gets it, he gets it for some other reason than because he asks for it.

For months the Duluth Tribune has been filled with invectives against christianity in general, and Duluth clergy in particular. Mr. Mitchell seems earnestly to covet a cheap notoriety, and has succeeded most admirably in making himself obnoxious to the better class of Duluth society. Like the "immortal J. N." he seems to want his fellow-citizens to look upon him as a noble specimen of a modern "martyr for the truth," and deems it his bounden duty to "lift the veil," and "assume the pressure." Like Paine and Ingersoll, whom he frantically endeavors to imitate, he makes use of the infidel's only argument—ridicule. But his attempts to use that weapon are as "skimmed milk" compared with the rich "cream" of Col. Ingersoll's sallies.

Their denial of a God does not annihilate God. Their disbelief in the Bible does not disprove its truth.—Their disbelief in the power of prayer, does not in the least destroy its power; and many people of Duluth, far above this would-be martyr in mental ability and moral stamina, will affirm their unshaken belief in these things, notwithstanding his efforts to convert them.

In his paper a few weeks ago he published an article on the fall of a minister in Iowa, and in his comments he said in substance that according to the christian religion any man could commit adultery or any other crime, and all he had to do was to cast his sins on Jesus, and his adulterous and sin-blackened soul would go to Abraham's bosom. No Christian minister preaches that doctrine. That doctrine belongs solely to "Rev. Mitchell's" new theology, as he is the only one who has taught it. Repentance is a necessary condition of acceptance, and then there is a decided difference between repenting and saying you repent. This is only one instance of his misrepresentations, and shows too plainly his natural tendency.

His proposition to the clergy of his city to have them read any 100 verses he may select is just what might be expected from a man of his natural inclinations. He and his kind live in a moral dissecting room, and take a fiendish delight in finding and displaying to public gaze the moral delinquencies of their fellow men.—The Bible uses plain language, and describes plainly the sins of mankind. To an honest truth-seeking person they will have a plain meaning. Any 100 verses in that Bible may be read before any intelligent congregation without shame-facedness. There are some people, however, who are afflicted with a false modesty, or are given to turning the true meaning of some phrase or sentence into an unnatural one. Before such people, and Mr. Mitchell is prominent among them, it would be a useless task, for he and they are always too ready to give to even the purest things of life an immoral and obscene appearance.—They cannot look upon such a beautiful statue as Hiram Powers' "Grecian Slave" without a lecherous leer and the most unholiest thoughts and desires.

In conclusion I would say that I prefer to have the Bible in my family to the Duluth Tribune. How any pure minded moral man who loves

truth and purity, can have such a sheet in his family is a mystery.—Such editors generally maintain their subscription lists by threatening all who stop their paper with a tirade of abuse, ridicule and vilification.

It is easier to destroy hope than to inspire it. These infidels are eager to destroy the Christian's hopes but they offer to humanity no substitute. If the Christian religion be false, its friends are as safe as its enemies. But if it be true, we have a hope which unbelievers have not. When infidels offer us something better we will accept it. CARL.

HOME COLUMN.

[Dedicated to the interest of the lady readers of the N. P. FARMER who are invited to contribute from week to week, any items and recipes that may be of interest to housekeepers.]

Open and shut, open and shut,
E'en from the rise to setting of sun.
Open and shut, open and shut,
And never a bit of fun.

Open and shut, open and shut,
With never fond smiles of joy or tears,
Open and shut, open and shut,
Oh, this is the life of a pair of shears.
Western Rural.

ED. HOME COLUMN: Now that the farmers are beginning to think about and prepare for their spring work, its no more than fair that the wives and daughters should have some out door work of profit—pecuniary—and of interest. There's no other business connected with farming which seems so well adapted to the care of the farmers wives and daughters as "poultry raising." If all would only realize the fact quite a little competence may be secured each year, from the profits of the poultry yard; at least, with but little care, all those little luxuries that are craved for the household could be obtained. The profits in poultry lies in keeping small flocks; from such it is easy to make an income of one or two hundred dollars annually, after buying their feed. And upon a farm enough goes to waste every year to feed several hundred chickens and turkeys. Give them a warm house in winter, and plenty of room where they will not be crowded; in the summer large pasturage; if there is any thing a chicken enjoys it is to roam at large. Let them have access to lime—old mortar is good—ashes and coals, all the scraps from the table, meat scraps, cooked and raw, well peppered; in the winter hot mush made out of meal or shorts with plenty of pepper put in, corn, oats and hay seed; throw down every day a forkfull of the hay siftings for them to scratch among to find the seeds; poultry like chickens need to be kept busy. They will repay such kindness by furnishing all the eggs for home use and a surplus to send to market. Surely in this land of the Minnesotians where eggs bring from 20 to 25 cents per dozen, from the 1st of December to the 1st of April, it will amply repay the care of poultry; besides bringing the over-worked wives and daughters out of the hot kitchen into the cool air. We hope those who are taking steps toward a county fair to be held next fall in Wadena county will give extra premiums for poultry exhibition. Among the best fowls to raise for market are the Light Brahmas; they are good layers and being large in size will bring almost and sometimes quite as much as young turkeys. The Buff Cochins are another good fowl, being good layers are smaller in size but not such ravenous eaters as the Brahmas. But the common fowl, if well cared for, will amply repay all trouble. The guinea fowl is also desirable; when cooked the flesh is a delicious morsel. It is called "the farmers friend" as experience has found that 1 guinea hen with her brood of chicks will keep off the bugs from a patch of potatoes. I would ask those who have had experience in poultry farming to give the readers of the Home Column the benefit of their experience. Also how to raise turkeys successfully. I found that they are like certain men fond of straying away from home and there is no telling where to find them when wanted. If any one

knows how to remedy the evil of "turkey wandering" I would be grateful if they would inform us.

Some one inquires what to do for a cactus whose leaves are turning yellow; there may be insects eating at the roots and you should examine it; you may have watered it too freely; they require a dry soil and warmth. I have heard that planting in the same dish a root of common field sorrel would cause an oxalis to bloom.

I will give my way of covering up the rough shelves for placing books and ornaments upon. Take plain flannel or merino; (the flannel used by lumbermen is more durable); cut the length of the shelf and 3-4 of a yard deep; then cut one edge in deep points, making three or four points according to the size of shelf; pink all around with a saddler's pinking iron; cut out of scraps of dark and bright colored velvets, silks and satins, palm ivy leaves and greek designs. When a sufficient quantity has been collected arrange them upon the points about two inches from the edge. A little care and practice will enable one to arrange the colors to harmonize; baste to keep in place; then work with contrasting color, in buttonhole stitch, the edges, with embroidery silk; feather stitch a band of white flannel 1-4 inch wide all around the lambrequin one inch from edge; between the points place points of contrasting color embroidered in the same way excepting the featherstitching near the edge.

I would like some way to frame small pictures with home made frames. Also how to cover footstools. Hoping this, my first letter, is not so long that it will be resigned to the editors scrap basket, I remain

INQUISITIVENESS.

Neighborhood News.

BLUFFTON

From our own correspondent.

Died of consumption at Bluffton, February 18, Mrs. Howes, wife of Jas. Howes, aged 39 years. Mr. and Mrs. Howes resided in Ellington, Iowa, until the fall of 1878 when Mr. Howes came up to this section to establish a home, Mrs. Howes following in June last year, being then in a very delicate state of health but hoping great things from the change of residence. The funeral took place on Saturday, Rev. John Knight conducting the funeral services.

Mr. H. Buck while squaring the end of a pile cut his foot very severely, almost severing the foot from the instep.

Another accident befell a three year old child of Mr. Winters. The child fell through a hole in the floor overhead and alighted on the cook stove which was almost red hot. His father was fortunately standing near and jerked him off as quick as thought, but not until the child was severely burned. FACT.

COMPTON.

From our own correspondent.

Bad colds and sore throats are still here. A little son of John Howell's is very sick with lung fever.

Jimmy Lightfoot has been laid up for several days with an attack of quinsy.

The scrap book mania has broken out among some of the Compton ladies and scissors and manicle are in great demand.

Our town is getting up quite a notoriety for runaways. Last Saturday True Robbins team took fright at a belligerent canine and ran some distance when Mr. Robbins succeeded in bringing them up against a fence. His left arm was hurt some but not seriously.

Fact doesn't seem hardly satisfied on the baby question yet does he? It is strange he should say Muggins presented them when we all know he claimed them, and now he has been and gone and swallowed six, which is one more than he claimed in the first place I am beginning to believe in the theory of development this much at least, that Fact is developing into a formidable rival of Wm. Makepeace, inasmuch as "the great novelist" only felt as though he had swallowed one baby.

We felt as though the editor's mild rebuke to correspondents last week was a coat which fitted us pretty well, but our excuse is that we live some distance from town and do not always have an opportunity to send in an article.

ENGLAND PRAIRIE.

From our own correspondent.

Now as spring begins to draw near and the farmers begin to look over their seeders and harrows to see if there is any repairs that are necessary, Observer begins to look for some news items.

This has been a magnificent winter for

business and it has been well improved getting out fencing, hauling lumber for building graineries, etc.

There will be some strife on this prairie to see who will raise the most grain to the acre the coming season. All the pains that can be taken to raise good crops will be taken as heretofore to put England Prairie at the head of the list for the best crops of all kinds raised in the county.

As we are to have a County Fair this fall, England Prairie will come in for its share of the premiums, and don't you forget it.

Mr. Paddock has brought seeders down to a price that all farmers can have one.

The young lady that arrived at Mr. Kissacks last Saturday morning only weighs about 9 pounds and looks so much like Uncle James that he will buy her an organ when she is eighteen years old.

Superintendent Whitney, of this county, and Superintendent Cowing, of Otter Tail county visited our school on the last day.

There was a mirage the other morning that lasted nearly two hours; we could see the whole of Leaf River township and we could see the smoke curling up through the timber; and we looked to see those wolves after that man but I guess that they had got over on the Red Eye before daylight.

OBSERVER.

WING RIVER.

From our own correspondent.

I don't know how we could get along without the N. P. FARMER, although we are not doing our duty towards it. But we have been so busy with other matters that we hope that it will be overlooked, as we could by no means help it.

Some of our neighbors appear to be a little huffy about some articles that happened to strike their case. Now, neighbors, by all means I do not wish to offend you nor at all injure you, but when I know the facts in the case its no harm to state them without malice.

Our school closed Feb. 13 with the best of satisfaction to all interested. The school for this winter, under the management of Mrs. Peck, of Deer Creek, has had the largest and most regular attendance it has had since the district was organized.

Our little excitement that started about 2 weeks ago does not seem to come to any reconciliation yet.

Our county road does not appear to make any great headway in being opened, which I think is through the negligence of some of our county officials.

The regulator of our weather has been getting considerable freaky for some time. He will give us a few days of genial weather, with the wind from the south, and then all of a sudden he will roll upon us an arctic wave with the thermometer at 35 and 40 degrees below zero. Mr. Regulator, it is rather trying to our constitutions as it is giving us all a bad cold. TRAMP.

WRIGHTSTOWN.

From our own correspondent.

The hog cholera which was so prevalent last summer has broke out here in the timber this winter. One case is reported to have proved fatal one day last week.

Mr. O. Daniels has just returned from Fergus Falls where he has been to home stead his land.

Bill Harkom is daily expecting a rail from Sitting Bull and his forces. He will probably think different after Town meeting. Geo. Cutting offers to sell out his claim real cheap. Now George don't do it. You have a good claim; stick to it.

Plyn Aldrich has drawn 1100 railroad ties and 12 loads of piling this winter to tow Try again Muggins.

Wesley Wright has some nice seed corn. Give him a call and see what splendid corn can be raised here "away up north."

Superintendent Cowing visited our school last Friday, and reported everything to be in a flourishing condition. But I am so to say he forgot to bring that ten dollar donation that he promised us last fall.

From present appearances our snow soon be

INVISIBLE.

J. Katzky

THIRD ST., WADENA

Dealer in

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Also Clothing, Boots and Shoes, and assortment in

MILLINERY AND STRAW GOODS.

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Every Farmer should have a Ross Sickle Grider in his house. A boy can run it. It is the best Grider in use for all purposes. For sale by all dealers in good Agents and canvassers and by POWELL, STEVENS & DODD, Wadena, Minn.