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G. A. WHITNEY. W. J. WHIFFLE.
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AT
WADENA, WADENA COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

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Written for the Farmer.

Our Climate.

Marvelously strange to hear folks
Tell how well they like this climate,
In howling winds and bleak cold
Days, their pleasures seem confined.
Nature, as though conscious of her mistake,
Put on a cold grim smile;
None dare condemn her winter freaks,
Though wind blows all the while.
Engaged in tumultuous roar and strife,
The elements seem combined.
Savages, when here, they liked the sport,
Congenial to their minds.
O'er bleak cold plains and ice bound
Lakes, the raging wind drives on,
Through freeze and frost, and prairie
Vast, it drifts the snow along.
Although there is some comfort here, out
Weighed by so much ill;
Long winters drear, and northern
Blasts, my soul with dread do fill.
Sunk Centre, Dec. 26, 1880. Mrs. E. B. H.

Written for the Farmer.

Saloon Keeping and its Evil Effects.

What I have to say on this subject may be the means of causing some young man, about to launch forth in this world of care and business, to stop and consider which path he shall travel, what course of business to pursue, and if my feeble effort may be the means of keeping one young man from choosing that worst of evils, saloon keeping, I shall be more than satisfied. I shall at least feel that I have done my duty in setting forth before their mind's eye the folly of such a course; the misery and degradation following in its wake. Oh young men, and not only young, but men of all ages,—more especially young men, as the map of their life is still before them to mark out as they will, pause, think, consider deeply before you make the leap, if you are at all inclined to start a saloon, or stand behind the bar and deal out intoxicating liquor for some other man. The position as a clerk in a saloon is as bad as the saloon keeper, for you deal out the obnoxious stuff to your fellow men. Stop and think. Is it honorable? Although the laws of our land countenance it and make it a so-called legitimate business, is it honorable? Suffering humanity cries out No. Poor poverty stricken wives and children answer No. The same cry comes reverberating all over our land from poor heart-broken mothers and sisters. The tottering form of the gray haired father is laid low in the grave. The sorrow of seeing his son, whom he expected to be the pride and joy of his declining years, but instead has sunk to the lowest depths of degradation, and is now a poor bloated wretch, has been more than the father's feeble strength could stand, and the snow of winter is lying white on his grave.

Many young men get their first taste of the poison in a saloon. When time drags slowly away they saunter into a saloon, with no settled purpose more than to watch the players at their various games, and pass a lagging half hour or so. They do not dream of danger lurking there. The saloon keeper, with an eye ever on the dollars and cents, single him out as a "green 'un" and pounces on him like a wolf on the unsuspecting lamb, and by the wiles known only to men of their class, finally prevail upon them to take the first drink; the second time the task is easier, and so it goes on until that young man becomes a confirmed drunkard. A man must be very depraved indeed, that can stand in his door and look upon man breaking the peace, cursing and swearing loudly

until he is taken into custody by the police, and think that man was one of nature's noblemen till he received from my hands the poison that has reduced him to such a state that his nearest friends would recoil from in horror; and I have made him thus for a few dollars. Any man that can look upon such a sight without feeling some qualms of conscience, as I said before, must be very depraved indeed. If no one had to suffer but the one that imbibes, I would not feel quite so antagonistic toward the saloon keeper as I do, but the innocent have to suffer for the guilty. If a man was foolish enough to throw his money into the coffers of the saloon keeper, and no one had to suffer but himself, it would be altogether different, although then it would be bad enough, God knows. A man will step up to the bar and spend his hard earned week's wages, the last dime, and the man behind the bar knows his wife and children are at home suffering for the most common necessities of life. Perhaps that very night, if it had not been for some kind hearted neighbor, they would have to go to bed supperless; and it does not end even here, but at a late hour the husband and father, maddened by drink, rushes into the house, snatches the very coverlid from the already poorly furnished bed, returns to that den of poison, and pawns it for one more drink. Does the saloon keeper refuse to take it and advise him to return it to his family? No, forsooth. He takes it, caring little for the numbed forms it should at that very moment be protecting from the cold. But I must draw this to a close, lest I try the patience of some of my readers too much this time. When I get to writing on this subject I can hardly find a stopping place. In closing I will say, young men, men of all classes and ages, it would be better, far better for you and the community at large, if you would turn wood Sawyer, than a saloon keeper. There is no evil attending that, no suffering women and children will curse you. It is at least honorable. VIOLA COLE.

Neighborhood News.

PERHAM.
We have been frozen up lately, and are now enjoying a first-class blizzard. Everyone is content on one thing only, viz: keeping warm. The Christmas trees were a success, and were enjoyed by a number of our citizens. Christmas passed quietly. Mass was celebrated in the church, by Rev. Father Buh, and the edifice was well filled. There is some talk of incorporation for Perham, but nothing definite has been done as yet. It has been excessively cold of late, the mercury having gone down to 36x below zero on Sunday night, and still worse on Monday. Everything frozen up; no news, no excitement, no nothing. DASH.

ALDRICH.
The Christmas tree and concert at Aldrich, Christmas Eve, was well attended, and everyone seemed well pleased with it.

MARRIED.—At the residence of the bride's father, Dec. 25th, 1880, by C. C. Parker, justice of the peace, Chas. M. Godway to Miss Philippa Dower, both of this place.

A team of horses, owned by L. D. French, took fright at an incoming train, while in town one day last week, and breaking loose started for the country in a hurry. They did not run far, however, before they ran foul of a tree, which stopped them. No damage except a broken neck yoke.

The mother of H. Lyons died at her home, two miles north of Aldrich, on Dec. 22d, of pulmonary consumption. MORE ANON.

BERTHA, TODD COUNTY.
Beautiful winter weather, and the fine sleighing is heartily appreciated

by those hauling wood and ties.

One year ago and the settlers followed winding roads through the timber, around trees and stumps. Since then roads have been cut through on many lines, and we will soon have long straight roadways.

The fine claims are being rapidly taken, and we look hopefully forward to the not far off day when this new country shall be filled with pleasant homes and teeming with plenty.

Messrs. Cary and Brown are putting a bridge across Wing River, at this place—an improvement very much needed.

The school in our new school house seems quite interesting, and is progressing finely with over twenty regular scholars.

There was a social hop at Mr. P. Williams, last Friday evening, and a pleasant time is reported.

OCCASIONAL.

EDS. FARMER.—If your correspondent, "Dash," would not be quite so economical of the truth, it would look better for holding the position he does. I'll defy him or anyone else to show a more orderly and prosperous town on the line of the road than Perham is. We have five saloons, kept more orderly than the general run of "wet goods," and I take pleasure in stating that thieving is unknown here. It is a wonder to me that the employees could guard the few things that are shipped, as "Dash" says business is rather dull. I must say he has very little "dash" about him to let a man "dash" off with the venison. Come "Dash," give us a "stiff" in something else. A saddle of venison walking off towards the rising sun with a cheeky individual is too "thin." Give us a rest,—somebody has sold you—they have saddled a different kind of deer onto you. R. DO.

WOODSIDE PRAIRIE.

Our groves and forest trees are beautifully decked with snow flowers nearly every morning.

S. O. Daniels has purchased Lamphere's claim on section 16.

Mr. Dobson's horse, which has been sick since last fall, is doing nicely, and Mr. D. is driving him now.

Mr. Bryant is wintering seven head of cattle, and by appearances we think he has all the fodder needed. Mr. B. has the largest wood-pile in town.

Don't be too sanguine about a man being badly frightened if he answers with kind words when he is called a d—s—of a—; your saying so does not make it so, or make his neighbors believe it. It requires more nerve for a man to hold his temper under the lash of such language than it does to fight.

James Carr informs us that he intends to go to the southern part of this State in a few days.

Mr. Streeter has finished his house on section 4, in the town south, and moved his family into it.

Mrs. O. G. Davidson's brother, from the south part of the State, is here visiting with her.

Jesse and Dock, went to Alexandria Wednesday, the 22d.

Christmas week Dick moved his threshing machine over the river to thresh for Bonar and Warner.

DIED.—On Dec. 18, at Elroy, Wis., M. C. Bunce, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bunce, aged 43 years and 11 mos. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his loss.

The instrument most used in our town for hernading the nasal organ. Harlow has the deepest toned one we know of. INCOG.

PARKERS PRAIRIE.

An unfortunate and painful accident happened to Mrs. Jesse Draper, of this town, on last Thursday evening. She was being assisted to bed by one of her attendants, on the evening above referred to, when, by some unexpected reason one of her arms was broken between the elbow and shoulder. It will be remembered

that Mrs. Draper has been under the doctors care for two or three years, and of late has been gradually improving. Dr. Farward was called to set the broken limb.

James Kasson has received his new stock of dry goods and groceries, and is dealing them out at a lively rate, but says that he wants more trade, and that he is going to advertise soon.

Is Parkers Prairie to have a saloon? This is a question that is beginning to agitate the public mind.

H. L. Veits & Olsen finished threshing the 18th inst. The last job was threshed for W. T. Mason.

James Clarmoe has fitted up one room of his hotel as sale room, and has put in a stock of groceries &c.

MARRIED.—On Sunday, 26th, at the Baptist church, by Elder Reeves, Mr. Allen Erckenbrack, of this town, to Miss Eva Saunders, of the town of Eastern.

On Christmas eve we went to the Baptist church, and on our arrival we found the house already full; hardly standing room left. The preliminary exercises consisted in reading, speaking and recitations, interspersed with excellent vocal and instrumental music, by the Parkers Prairie choir, after the conclusion of which, the curtain was drawn aside, revealing to the excited and delighted gaze of the juveniles, a magnificent Christmas tree, with every available place hanging with presents. "Old Santa Claus" put in an appearance to assist in the distribution of the presents, to the intense merriment of the children. After the distribution, the jolly crowd dispersed to their respective homes, feeling happy for an evening spent in contributing to the happiness of others. F.

OAK VALLEY.

The weather seems to have caught a cold, and the best remedy I can find for such attacks, is a stove well filled with dry oak wood, (of course there must be a fire not far from the wood) and keep close to the stove. This is the last opportunity we will have in 1880 for furnishing the gossip of our various neighborhoods for our friend, the FARMER; but, if the old year is about to expire, I am happy to say, the FARMER seems to be thriving and doing well. I will wish it a happy New Year, as the new year is near at hand.

If the people around here had not had almanacs telling them that Saturday was the 25th of Dec., we would hardly realize that Christmas had made us its yearly visit.

Hauling wood and ties does not seem to be a fashionable occupation here, though I see by some of the correspondents that in some places it is "all the rage." There has been a little wood hauled to town from around here, and a load or two of ties. We drop in behind in that business, although, this winter so far.

The threshing machine belonging to Sidney Packard, commenced operations last Thursday at A. C. Packard's; finished the job Saturday, about noon. They had considerable bad luck, by way of breakage. The machine is not warranted to thresh grubs, and its teeth failed to be strong enough to masticate them. Grain, as well as grubs, seems to be plenty in this country, so it is best to thresh the grain, as the grubs will cook better (when well dried) in a stove, than in threshing machines, and without danger of causing any dental work to be necessary.

N. H. Packard took, or caused to be taken, the lives of two swine last Wednesday.

Everything now goes to show that A. M. J. O. Keef, will have a cold disagreeable trip to the woods this week.

Mr. William's team was the first to break the track through our valley to Wadena, since the snow storm of Saturday night and Sunday, and they found some snow so deep that they

were obliged to get out of their sleigh and tramp the snow ahead of their horses.

On Sunday afternoon, as Jennie Stakes was returning from her folks to Alfred O. Keef's, "King Frost" made himself intimately acquainted with one of her ears, consequently quite a sore ear. Better discard his acquaintance, as it is apt to be very unpleasant, but some times he will force his unwelcome presence among us. He is not a very courteous old gentleman, to say the least.

Items are scarce this week, so hoping the weather will not expose itself, so as to have a relapse, I will wait and see what another week will bring forth. REPORTER.

Merry Christmas.

The Christmas celebration at the Wrightstown school house, in district 68, was a grand success. The house was decorated with evergreens and a neatly arranged stage. There were about 125 people present. The tree was laden with presents of all descriptions, and every branch and branchlet bowed under its weight of good will to man, and a large shelf back of the tree was piled full of gifts that were too heavy to be put on the tree. There was 719 presents counted as they were taken down, and several men of good judgment estimated their value at \$250, which cannot be far from correct. The old pioneers, who have battled with the forest trees, and the prairie sod, came to the front with their money, as well as their hands. One of them (Uncle E.) purchased and put on the tree 87 presents, for which he paid \$66.50. And there is twelve others who we have good cause to believe furnished gifts for the tree to the value of \$10 each, and judging from the pleasant greetings and happy smiling faces of uncles aunts, and silver haired grandmas and grandpas, they were all well pleased with their investments. The programme of exercises commenced with a song (greeting glee) by the Wrightstown Glee Club, followed with a prayer by the Rev. Mr. Thomas. Then came select readings, dialogues, declamations, singing, and a scene from Hamlet, in which Uncle Barber appeared as Hamlet's ghost. Mr. B. did credit to himself and pleased all who saw him. The song "Santa Claus is Coming" was sung by the Wrightstown Glee Club, and sure enough he did come, rattling his belts, stamping his feet, and wearing a costume, strictly in keeping with Santa, with his long gray beard and hair. He was greeted with a song, "Welcome all Good Girls and Boys and Good Old People too, Look at My Christmas Tree." Then followed the distribution of presents, a few of which I will mention. A nice fur cap for each of the Miss Goodale's and one for Mrs. Deksdator. Two black walnut paper receivers, ornamented with beautiful landscapes; one for Mrs. Docksator and one for Mrs. Thos. Goodale. A beautiful toilet set of blue and gold bohemian glass for Mrs. Henry Wright. A suit of clothes for Henry Wright, also one for G. A. Wright. Aunt Mira and Ala Wright received presents from friends in Manston, Wis., that so surprised and pleased them, that Aunt Mira's chin quivered a little as she said, "God bless my children for remembering the old lady." Francis Wright carried away the prize; a nice ladies silver watch and gold chain, and a beautiful gold neck lace. There were many other valuable presents, but for want of space I will not mention any more. After the presents were all distributed, Mr. Morehouse brought in a barrel of apples and passed them among the people, and as the Indian said, "they lasted very quick." INCOG.

WANTED.—Five or six good reliable men to canvass for and sell the Singer Sewing Machine. C. POTTER, Wadena, Minn.