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Temperate Temperance.

To the Editors of the N. P. Farmer.

The letter of Viola Cole, in your recent issue, reminds me that in commenting on our tendency to novel delusion, I did not mention the teetotal crusaders; the most noisy and aggressive of all those factions, ever since a contingency of the late war destroyed the Abolition hobby. Lincoln's proclamation which freed the negro, ruined the abolition business for ever, and its disbanded leaders fell into the increasing army of crusaders. These fanatics expected some contingency to arise from a war upon saloons, that would satisfy the appetite of mankind for wine and its substitutes. What is there in our people, or institution, that makes us take such roundabout and expensive ways of correcting abuses? Other civilized nations can emancipate their slaves without wasting such rivers of blood, and millions of treasure, and making so many desolate homes and ruined fortunes, and no other nation ever made such a mischievous confusion of the temperance problem. We have all heard the accusations brought against the saloon-keepers, by the crusaders, from Neal Dow to Mrs. Pres. Hayes and Viola Cole; but very few have heard the accusations brought against these crusaders by the temperate temperance people.

Now that a reaction has fairly set in, and a person may tell the truth without being called a rummy, I propose to bring some of these to the notice of your readers. At the new temperance movement just begun in Boston, Gov. Long presided, and said: "This meeting recognizes the peril from the rapid growth of intemperance; the failure of all the former methods of suppressing it, and the need of combining temperate people, totalists and drunkards in some practical method of suppressing its evils." Judge Aldrich said: "A new generation has sprung up since the many unsuccessful attempts to stop drinking by legislation, and the old methods cannot be again tried with effect. The young men have seen them fail. Prohibition was to cure all, yet in Maine intoxication is more frequent than where liquors are comparatively free. An Augusta clergyman has just compiled statistics, which show that seven-eighths of all the arrests in that city for 14 years, have been for drunkenness, under the most stringent liquor laws in the world. The pledges, and Washingtonians have been equally futile, and broken pledges are a moral damage, and weaken the will-power. Violent orators, too, disgust thoughtful men. They will not believe that drinking a glass of wine is a sin, for they know it is not. But a temperate discussion of the problem all men give heed."

Dr. Garcelon, the last Governor of Maine, is an abstainer, and said: "The Maine law is a failure as to preventing intoxication, and the facts cannot be longer ignored. I have seen more drunken men in the streets of Lewiston in one day, than I ever saw in New York; our daily papers tell this. I went to a southern city last year as a delegate to a medical association. Liquor was sold there freely, yet I did not see a man under its influence, and I had my eyes about for that very purpose. Now the first man I saw at Lewiston, on my return, was so drunk he could not stand. An occasional drunken man would not prove the law ineffectual, but when

you see and hear them daily, such a law is impotent. Crime is increasing; our jails and prisons are fuller than ever before. The writers had heard that drunkenness and crime were almost unknown in Maine, and that our jails were almost empty. In reply, I sent the writer the statistics of crime, prosecutions and jails. That tells the story. One argument for prohibition was, that free rum selling increased the taxes, and prohibition reduced them. That is not the case. Prohibitionists claim that punishing rumsellers, swells the figures. But if rum sellers are arrested, prohibition has failed, and it makes little difference to taxpayers whether their rates are large because rumsellers are punished, or because rum-drinkers are punished."

This is a sample of the revised temperance sentiment of New England, as expressed by the governors of Massachusetts and Maine; the judges, clergymen and other abstainers who are not fanatics. And I could fill every column of the FARMER with similar testimony from these reformed prohibitionists, but prefer to state some of my own observations. At a late temperance meeting in Minneapolis, an American said: "Four out of every five Americans who used spirits became drunkards." The next speaker, a German, said: "In my native village, of 3,000 inhabitants, every man, woman and child use wine or beer every day, and there is only one drunkard in that whole village." These men both speak the truth, and when I was a boy, down east every one used spirits daily, like those Germans, and therefore, were temperate. But Maine laws have made them drunken, till now, one in every thirty-five of the people of Maine, are yearly arrested for drunkenness, and only one in fifty of the Irish; Neal Dow having so much excelled Father Mathew in making drunkards. I can show that abstinence makes Christians as drunken and shortlived as it makes Heathens and Indians, and that where wine and beer are a daily food, the people continue sober and healthy.

Now Mr. Editor, if Viola Cole, or "any other man," takes this for a challenge, and would try to prove that license makes more drunkards than Maine laws, the facts brought out would interest everyone, and bring a response from Yours,
D.

Neighborhood News.

PARKERS PRAIRIE.

Business is not very brisk this cold weather.

H. Asseln has got on a mammoth stock of goods, the largest ever brought to this place.

Mr. F. Gordon, I understand, is offering his hotel for sale, wishing to go west in the spring.

Mr. Frazier, of Lake Murry, Douglas County, is teaching music in our village.

Our district school, taught by Miss Hicks, is not well attended, as the small and some of the large scholars, living at a distance, do not attend during this cold weather, and the school room is said to be very cold, making it uncomfortable for both teacher and scholars. Something must be done before another winter,—that \$2,000 school house, perhaps.

The Parkers Prairie Cemetery Association meet at the school house in this village, on Saturday, the 22d, at 6 o'clock p. m. Let all those interested attend.

Dr. Farward's family will soon start for Wisconsin, on an extended visit.

Bad colds, neuralgia, and rheumatism is quite prevalent. F.

PERHAM.

A painful accident happened to the foreman of wood saw, No. 8, on Wednesday last, while sawing. He was struck in the face by a splinter, and was knocked about twelve feet.

His cheek was badly cut, and he lost considerable blood; however, he was able to be around again next day. This is the second time he has been used thus.

A man afflicted with the D. Ts., boarded the night freight train at Detroit, on Tuesday night last, and after stripping himself tried to bounce the conductor. He was subdued, however, and made to resume his coverings, but about a half a mile from Frazee he jumped off and laid down in the snow, where he was when last seen by the train men. The conductor sent some men back from Frazee, to bring him in.

Our worthy Postmaster, Mr. H. Kemper, moved into his new residence last week, and at once proceeded to get sick. He is still in that condition.

The weather has been very cold lately, the mercury having dropped to 40x below zero on Saturday night. It still continues cold.

One of our saloon men was refused a license lately. He was our latest addition to the ranks of whiskey slingers. Five saloons was too much for such a small place anyhow.

It is said that wolves are thick between here and the town of Maine. Mr. Fort says he heard them howling frequently while he was passing through the woods last week. He carried a small battery of artillery with him, and so felt secure.

Business is lively in spite of Jack Frost.

WRIGHTSTOWN.

When the "Indicator" stands at from 35 to 40x below zero, the FARMER readers must not expect locals to be very plenty in these parts.

The holidays are past and gone, and business has assumed its usual place again.

The first load of Mr. Tuttle's steam mill, arrived here yesterday. The rest is expected to-morrow, and if the weather permits, in a few days the scream of the whistle and buzz of the saw, will again be heard in our forests. Logs are being hauled to the yard at a rapid rate.

Mr. Gilmore has returned from from Sauk Centre, where he has been to get some repairs for his mill, and is again at work in his mill.

Perkins & Morehouse have sent a car load of lumber to Brainerd, being the first car load ever shipped from here. It is a nice sample, and an unlimited amount can be obtained.

It is conceded here, that the man that counted the presents on the Christmas tree, was a much better scholar in multiplication than addition.

At the meeting of the county board, held Jan. 4th, our school district, No. 68, was divided, forming a new district on the west end of the town, to meet the wants of that fast settling portion of our town.

Rev. Collins has a singing school at the school house every Wednesday evening; also Rev. Wright every Thursday evening. So it can be seen that we are some on the sing.

What is the matter of the Wadena tie market this winter. I notice that those that hauled to Wadena last winter, are now hauled to Verdale. Such things ought not to be, but three cents on each tie, is quite an item on a large amount.

Many of our neighbors have been to the new mill at Verdale, and are highly pleased with the result. They report of getting a good yield of fine quality of flour, and the bran and shorts are far from being to them

INVISIBLE.

OAK VALLEY.

The weather has softened considerably since last writing.

Isaac Bratton has been quite poorly for some time back. Neuralgia seems to be the cause of his ill health. Ada, oldest daughter of Frank Packard, is boarding at A. C. Packard's and attending school; Ella Man-

love, at W. H. Webb's.

Mr. Darling was obliged to close his school last week Tuesday noon, on account of the severity of the weather. The school house was so cold that the teacher did not think it advisable to continue the school until the weather was somewhat milder. I heard a young lady that attends school, remark, that the teacher was a little Darling. Quite a compliment, Eh!

Last Saturday evening, quite a number of the Oak Valleyites gathered at Andrew Olson's, Compton, and triped the light fantastic toe. They were mostly Germans and Swedes. Beer flowed freely, and hearts were light.

A young gentleman of Compton, is getting anxious to find out whether a certain Oak Valley young lady is "on the marry" or not. No interpreter is necessary, and he should remember the old adage, "Faint heart never won fair lady."

Celia Packard has bid adieu to Bluffton, and returned home.

Marriages, there has been none. Since this correspondent begun, To write for our esteemed paper, And act as the Oak Valley

REPORTER.

LATER.

As I failed to get my communication to the office last week in time for publication, I will add a little to it for this week and send it all together.

James Windsor, whose home is in Oak Valley, but who spends the most of his time at his saw mill, met with quite an accident a short time ago, two of his fingers being cut very badly with the saw. It is feared one of them at least will always be stiff.

N. H. Packard threshed last week Thursday. The help complained terribly of cold hands and feet.

There is very little grain hauled to town from these parts now, the farmers having taken it to market earlier in the season.

There has been considerable wood and ties taken to Wadena, for a week or so back.

Celia Packard gives a birthday party, on Wednesday evening of this week. A good time is anticipated.

Henry Zimmerman, of Compton, has purchased a nice young team. He has a pair of bob-sleighs under way, and will soon be ready to take the young ladies out sleigh riding in style.

Belle Zimmerman, who has been boarding at Mr. Maltby's Bluffton, all winter, spent two weeks at home, returning last Wednesday.

Mrs. S. Zimmerman complains of quite poor health this winter. Her friends are glad to have her get out among them occasionally, on a visit.

Unless something exciting happens around here soon, your correspondent will be greatly puzzled to find something to write about. REPORTER.

EASTERN WADENA.

The weather is quite endurable once more, though it requires a good fire now to keep comfortable; but it is so much of an improvement on some we have had that we feel to rejoice.

The excitement in our neighborhood last week, consisted in W. D. Welch's house catching fire; as it was after dark and no men folks at home, Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Preston were obliged to call on their neighbors. Messrs. G. W. Palmer, Schermerhorn Fackrell went over and with considerable difficulty succeeded in getting the fire under control. They had to damage the roof somewhat, but a roof with a hole in is better than none at all over one's head such weather as this.

The most of the musclicines left in this neighborhood, intend starting for Coalgrove's camp to-morrow morning. Mrs. Theison's Christmas present came last week, consisting of a set of elegant silver teaspoons, a set of table spoons, also a silver ring, gold lined, and all from some friends at a distance. Who would not have friends! ARTICHOKES.

LEAF RIVER.

M. S. Morical is enjoying the benefit of a frozen nose, and "he nose it." Owing to the extreme cold weather, there was but a small congregation out to church last Sunday, although we had the privilege of listening to a good discourse.

Mr. McPrand's child, about two years of age, got badly scalded, and it is feared it will not recover. The little thing fell into a kettle of boiling water.

Everybody is complaining of having the worst colds they ever had. Probably they have forgotten.

Mr. Elliot's mill is shut down for repairs. All hands are putting in logs.

Mr. Tuttle is going to move his mill to Wrightstown.

There was nine births and four deaths in this town, in 1880.

M. S. Morical has filed his bonds as Postmaster at Leaf River. O. K.

WOODSIDE PRAIRIE.

Mr. Editor, as Mr. Incog is absent from home this week, I will write a little to your paper, if you do not think best to consign it to the waste basket, which Artichokes warns us is the dread place where you stow all letters giving no "ideas." However, I will venture.

We sometimes see a whole page of your paper given to correspondence, which I read with much interest, for what are the women of this great N. W. more interested in than the successes and experiences of the lords of creation; but I think their success is greatly due to the help of their wives. Now I do not wish to theorize, but give a few facts which have come under my observation within the last year, and I think it a sample of a great many wives, in this new and beautiful country. Young Mr. A. marries a young and beautiful girl, and brings her to live in the new home, more comfortable than grand. Both are hopeful, happy and ambitious, but, like most of our settlers, their financial resources are very stinted. Mr. A. seeks employment away from home for the new farm untilled and unbroken will not yield to keep the wolf from the door. Now, during Mr. A's absence, there is the garden to be looked after, for weeds will grow as fast when he is away as when he is at home and I think faster. The cow runs at large on the prairie and must be driven home and milked, and wood and water to be brought, and sometimes wood to be chopped, especially when Mr. A. remains away longer than anticipated; and than when the winter comes with its cold cruel winds and frost and snow, tossing it into the faces of those who are out of doors, and making every bearded man look like a grandpa, some one must go to the barn three times a day to feed and water the cow, feed the chickens and the little pigs, which is to furnish their meat next winter, and doing a hundred other little things to help husband, thus hastening the time of better days. ONLY "i."

BLUFFTON.

We do not know, but we have an impression that it must have been cold this last week, out on the prairie. Bluffton is well sheltered by timber, but even here, the mercury got away down among the thirties and forties, and frozen noses and ears were sometimes seen around town.

Our depot is finished for the present, and we learn C. M. Maltby has been appointed station agent here.

We have another new comer amongst us, who will, we learn, put up a dwelling and shop, and commence the business of a gunsmith. Well, we think he ought to prosper anyway, for some of our citizens are more used to this kind of tool, than any other, and it is surprising how many guns are out of order, when our nimrods miss their game.

C. D. Baker and W. S. Heathcote,
(Continued on 4th page.)