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THE SPIRIT DISCUSSION.

To the Editors of the N. P. Farmer.
I did not get the last FARMER till this week, and the letter of W. S. H., in that issue, will cause me to write a new and different letter, which may be too late for this week's paper. Since I came to Wadena I have employed my scraps of leisure time in writing short articles on current topics, for the entertainment and instruction of your various readers; and the crusading letter of Viola Cole, suggested the growing reversion of public opinion on the temperance problem, as a suitable subject for a few letters. I stated several important facts, which experience and science had lately established, and gave quotations from governors, judges, ministers and other prominent leaders of temperance in Massachusetts and Maine, in support of these facts. At this stage, your correspondent, W. S. H., "rushed into print" to say that all my facts were taken from Dr. Garcelon, the late Gov. of Maine, a renegade politician, and from "decaying races of men," which are the various prohibited races of the old world, and THE PROHIBITED YANKS AND INDIANS OF THE NEW WORLD.

He next employs his evident abilities as a *pettifogger*, to prove that I don't understand the English language; that when I say black, I mean white, and if I say white, that means black, and no one but he can tell what my writing means. In his last letter he virtually accused me of general ignorance, dishonesty and falsehood. This makes it necessary that your readers should know my character and credentials, and those of W. S. H., and be able to compare the two records. Mine, they will find in lengthy editorials in the *Scientific American*, the *Scientific Journal*, of San Francisco, or the *London Engineering*. As a sample of these, I quote the follow extract from the *Scientific American*, of Sept. 3d, 1873, which says: "The writings of D. give evidence that he is one of those comparatively rare individuals, who can observe with discrimination, and draw accurate inferences. We fully endorse the clear comprehensive style of his works, which we heartily recommend to all who are interested in the subject upon which he writes." When W. S. H. gives his credentials to your readers, they will know which of us to believe and follow.

To those light headed correspondents who are so anxious to tread on my professional toes, I will only say: That my professional, and my natural toes, are all perfectly free from corns, and they may walk onto any of them, whenever they choose. But I frequently *dance yet*, and when any of my partners have corny toes, these sometimes get "hurt."

The *Scientific American*, of Jan. 8th, 1872, says: "Science now shows that thought force, like muscle force, comes from the food; that the force produced by the brain, comes not from the disintegration of its own tissues, but is the converted energy of burning carbon. The brain is therefore a machine for the conversion of energy, and we have only to lubricate it well, and supply it with fuel to enable it to perform great things." God breathed into man a LIVING SPIRIT, and made the brain for its organ of communication with the outside world. Then he furnished in man's food, a similar spirit, an

etherial fuel, to inspire the operations of this spiritual organ. God was so careful to supply this spirit fuel that he furnished it in all fruits, herbs and grains used as human food. To assist, and relieve the human system in digesting it, he furnished each food with the germs of ferment, which produce this spirit in a calabash, in a hide bag or in a beer vat, wherever the food is crushed, moistened and heated, as in the human mouth and stomach. To farther insure the supply of this spirit food, the air we breath, the water we drink, and the dust we tread upon, are all supplied with these germs of ferment like the pepsin of the stomach. Huxley found dust from a room, from the ground and from the top of Nelson's monument, to be half its volume, these germs of ferment. This nature provides much free spirit in our solid food. Common light bread contains 0.114 per cent. T. Bolas obtained over five ounces of absolute alcohol from sample loaves, obtained from six London bakers. Vienna bread contains much more, and the German statistics show that seven and a half millions of gallons of absolute alcohol is consumed in the bread eaten in that empire each year. Add the spirit consumed in all other German diet, and we know why they rank next to the British in health, wealth and intelligence, as these attributes in each race are developed, and best measured.

BY THE RATIO OF THE SPIRIT FOOD THEY CONSUME.

A generation of Jews last for 40 years, and of Mohammedans only 20 years. The puritans were as temperate, moral and healthy as the Jews. Now they are reformed down to the standard of Mohammedans. The fermentation of spirit in bread, is interrupted by the fire in baking, till renewed by the juices in the stomach, and completed by the acidulous digestion of its crude elements into blood. The spirit furnishes the fuel for the mental organs, and the blood furnishes the elements which compose the physical system. Spirit increases the mental powers for good and evil. Blood increases all the physical powers for good and evil; and both are essential to human life. But the spirit may be digested in a wine vat, and the blood in an ox, and each produce the same effect as if digested in the system. The sensation in the system from a glass of wine, or of blood, cannot be distinguished after the taste is gone, but much excess or defect of either, are each equally dangerous. The elements of flesh and bones are not found in spirit by analysis, and by this, the totalists pretend to prove it is not a food; and the materialists by a similar analysis, pretend to prove that man has no soul. But the simple fact, that

WINE MAKES MAN'S SPIRIT LIGHTER, AND HIS BODY HEAVIER.

is positive proof that wine is both mental and physical food, and the simple fact that man can comprehend God's method in his universe, is positive proof that man has a spiritual soul. When listening to some 'Reformer' expounding from those 900 pages of quips and fibs in the 'Temperance Hand Book,' the catechism, and creed of the Totalists, from which W. S. H. quotes his paragraphs, I have often had a scientific friend, or an M. D. whisper in my ear: "What a light you or I could throw into his subject if we chose." But we preferred that they should have full scope and time to try their reform. Now, is not one temperate, or two totalist generations, time enough for trial? That it is enough, and that these quacks mistake the diagnosis of the disease for which they are prescribing, and are dreamers regarding the efficacy of their remedies, is the judgment of Gov. Long, Chancellor Crosby, Judge Godard and all who have made this subject a special

and careful study. Those who have not, are not competent judges.

W. S. H. has deliberately charged me with drunkenness, ignorance and falsehood; and he now politely asks me for information. But he may look over his book, or ask his *prompter* for it. "He can't catch old birds with chaff."

To your readers who can understand my language, and believe me competent, I will explain, that when Liebig set the newspapers to ridiculing the totalists for "working small smuggling stills under their clothes, and crookedly withholding the excise duties," he also taught, that the spirit must be accompanied by muscular food; that wine contained but little of this food,

"CERTAINLY NOT MORE THAN POTATOES,

and that there is as much solid fiber in a loaf of bread, as in a barrel of beer." That man can neither live on the spirit distilled out, nor on the crude food in the grains thrown away by the distiller. That both are essentials of life and health, and that their natural equilibrium is the only possible condition of temperance. This fact, Liebig said—made beer drinkers hungry for cheese, ham, and bologna, and produced these as free lunches by the beer vendors; just as prohibition produces private grogshops, and hidden bottles and jugs of whiskey. This subject deserves the most careful attention of all honest reformers, as it shows the true cause of the rapid and alarming increase of drunkenness with all its attendant evils, which keep step with every attempt to banish spirit from the human food. The subject deserves speedy attention from the rapidity with which the totalist fanatics are exterminating those temperate habits which have so long been established by experience, by the bible and by our christian redeemer.

With an apology for the length of this letter, I remain Yours, D.

Neighborhood News.

COMPTON.

Alfred Ecker was over from Bluffton last Sunday. His friends are always glad to see him.

Alfred Stewart is home from Kelley's lumber camp. He finds it decidedly convenient to own a pair of good lengthy limbs, while the snow is so deep.

An odd looking deer was killed near here lately, said by those who know, to be a cariboo (if that's the way to spell it, or if it isn't.)

Tom Lightfoot, who cut his foot so badly, is suffering very much, to put it mildly, from having taken the advice of a person who told him to put ashes upon the cut. Tommy says he don't think much of that recipe for making soap.

Some of our neighbors are very sensibly laying in a supply of flour, in anticipation of the coming break up.

LEAF RIVER.

Mrs. McKinzie received a box of pressed fruit, from Ohio. Miss Nancy McKinzie, Washington, Ohio, being the donor.

The lads that took Mrs. Winter's Duck, and got Mrs. Grant to cook it, and told her they won it on a raffle in Wadena, had better call and adjust the matter instanter, as Mr. Winters says he will give them ten days to come and settle, and if they do not, he will see if Minnesota has got any law to protect citizens' property.

MAD DOG.—A case of hydrophobia, occurred in the neighborhood of Farmers Station, Ohio, about two weeks ago. Charles Challender, had a favorite shepherd dog, that he noticed was acting strangely one day, and after examining the case thoroughly, was satisfied that it was hydrophobia, and so he killed his canine friend.

Jo Southard has been carrying his arm in a sling for about three weeks, on account of a broken arm. Of course he is laid by for repairs.

LICK SKILLET.

BLUFFTON.

The dance, in aid of the organ fund, was an unqualified success. Everything passed off quietly, and none the less enjoyably. There were forty couple present, and the affair netted almost \$38. We understand another dance is contemplated in about two weeks time, of which due notice will be given, and we hope that for so good a cause, there will be a still greater number present.

The interest manifested in our Lyceum seems to increase with each meeting, last Wednesday's meeting being second to none in interest and attendance. The discussion on the relative evils of "fashion" and "intoxicating drinks," was a rare display of ingenious argument and sophistry.

Town election passed off quietly Tuesday. The following officers were elected: Town Board, W. A. Walker, Chairman, C. W. Scribner, Geo. Crabtree; Town Clerk, C. S. Boss; Treasurer, W. S. Hurst; Assessor, D. C. Palmer; Justice of Peace, C. D. Baker; Constable, S. Ward.

Rev. Snyder preached here last Sunday afternoon, to quite a respectable congregation. Rev. J. Knight was also present.

J. W. Alexander, head surveyor of the Minnesota Northern R. R., has been here the last few days, looking up the various surveys, with a view to an early start in the spring on the grading. The purchasing agent of the wood also accompanied him, to look after the necessary supply of ties, etc.

INMAN.

The weather is getting very fine. It begins to act as if old winter had broke his heart, and spring was coming to heat it. Well, five month's snow and the rest cold weather, is not bad for this country.

Our school closes this week. We had a very good school, considering the very bad winter.

Town meeting is at hand, but the office seekers are very quiet this time.

It does not look as if the railroad company was going to get as many ties as they will want, for the snow is so deep it is almost impossible to make them, and very hard work to draw them; but yet, there may be more got out than we think.

The Parkers Prairie folks are very anxious for the railroad to run near them, so as to accommodate them as much as possible. I think that the company had ought to do it, there was so many in favor of the bonds. If they wanted the benefit of a railroad, why did they not vote for the bonds? They will now take the road just as they can get it, whether they are satisfied or not.

Mr. Howe is able to get around again.

Now if any one wants a good location for a saw mill, here is the place; plenty of timber and close to the railroad.

There is plenty of good land in this vicinity, both timber and prairie, which can be got very reasonable. If any parties want land, just send them out this way. A good blacksmith would find a good location here, and plenty to do. We want to build a City here, come and give us a boost.

EASTERN WADENA.

If we could have a week or two of such weather as Sunday was, we should feel encouraged to believe that we would have a spring yet.

N. J. Palmer went a fishing and caught a fresh codfish, that weighed seven pounds. He remembered us.

Mr. Gochie lost one of his oxen, on his way home from Wadena, Saturday evening, by its dropping dead in

the road. Being so near time for commencing springs work, makes it very unfortunate. That makes us think, we heard a man prophesying to-day that seeding would be commenced in March. We devoutly hope so.

The Johnsons have returned from camp, in full force.

Lindsay Johnson had a house raising week before last.

Mrs. Ross and son, have come home from Kelly's camp to-day.

A few of our neighbors attended the masquerade in Verndale last Friday evening.

Ben Welch and wife, have gone to Adams and Green's camp. So they keep going and coming all of the time.

The fire in Wadena week ago last Saturday evening, was observed by some in our settlement. They concluded it was in Wadena, and considerable surmising was done as to what building it could be.

We forgot to say that N. J. Palmer caught that codfish to the time of a shilling a pound.

We are not going to say news is scarce, for we have an idea that your readers will surmise as much, or else conclude we have mistaken our vocation, when they read this communication.

ARTICHOXES.

PARKERS PRAIRIE.

To-day was a lively one in our town. The bear from Wadena, was down, and a large number of sharpshooters, from the surrounding country were present. On the first round, the highest tally was 13 by two, W. D. Wallace, the proprietor of his bearship, and John Gratehaunce. At this point there was some excitement, and a good deal of discussion, as to whether others should be allowed to come in or not; but it was decided that they should not, but that the two tie shots should shoot their shots over, and in this, Mr. Wallace came out ahead, on a tally of 10. Mr. Wallace then put up his bear again, and also won again, on a score of 12. Thomas Goodale made 11 and Robert Barker 10. All things considered, there was no fine shooting done, but it afforded a good deal of amusement. I think the reason that some of our best shots utterly failed, was from the fact that the bear made them a little shaky.

Mr. Ellis, a few days ago, whilst driving his team across Lake Adely, broke through the ice, and it was with difficulty that he saved himself and team. It is said that where his horses broke through, the ice was not over an inch thick.

Dr. Farward's family started for Wisconsin, last Monday. The Doctor remains here.

A large amount of lumber is being brought from Woodside to this town. We hear of quite a number that propose building this season.

Mr. Barty has not got his mill to running yet.

Another lot of horses from below, arrived to-day, quartered at the Clarmo barn.

J. H. Salmon, of Woodside, was down to-day after the doctor. His wife is quite sick.

The bear feast has been indefinitely postponed.

WOODSIDE PRAIRIE.

Snow about three feet deep. Ed Wilson tells us he is going to Dakota in the spring. He has sold his claim on section 23, to Jason Newell.

Wm. Bratten has bought a yoke of oxen.

Walter Hatch drives a horse team again.

One of S. O. Dannel's horses died a short time ago, and we understand Mr. D. has traded for oxen.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Moore, have been absent from home for some time; both sick at Ucle E's.

Thos. Goodale is getting out lumber.

(CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE.)