ALL ABOUT US.

Record of Events in Our own Neighborhood.

The year has been an unusually eventful one, locally speaking. It has witnessed a remarkable growth in all lines of improvement, many notable ones being made. In another place more extended notice is given of this fact. Commercially speaking, and in all lines of industry, 1892 has been prosperous.

It has witnessed a great stride forward in united endeavor looking to the city's upbuilding. The Twin-city Columbian exposition project, which took shape early in the season, and which while not yet entirely completed, promises to open over the holidays, was a significant movement in the way of joint effort on the part of the cities of Rock Island and Moline. This and many other undertakings on the part of the Commercial Improvement association, the proposition to purchase the Davenport bridge for manufacturing purposes, the earthing and beautification of public parks, the completion of the Twenty-fourth street viaduct, the extension of street car improvements, being measures long important. The erection of business blocks, public buildings and residences exceed the march of building improvements in a sporting way. Professional base ball was re-established, and society the season has been a particularly happy one.

In labor channels the year has brought results entirely satisfactory, practically assuring the erection of the Industrial home early the coming year.

In a mortuary way, 1892 has not made a great record. The number of deaths has been great, but it has witnessed the passing away of a number of our pioneers.

A COMPLETE REVIEW.

Summary of the Events of the Year in Rock Island County.

JANUARY.

Strike of the Cable miners.
David R. Ware, the pioneer, died, aged 79 years.
Death of Mrs. Maria B. Hayes, an old resident, aged 72 years.
Coldest day of the year, 18 degrees below zero.
Mrs. Hannah Swander, one of the earliest settlers of the county, died in this city, aged 77.
Banquet of the Tri-City Travelers.
Formal opening of the Rock Island District, C. A. S. Rutlington named as the new commander at Rock Island arsenal.
Augustana University association purchased the Hall property on Archer avenue. Consideration, $20,000.
Death of Mrs. Isaac Colnitzer, of Port Byron, on the oldest settler of this vicinity, aged 78 years.

FEBRUARY.

Jesse Bedford, of Port Byron, an old settler, died, aged 79 years.
Failure of the American Cleaning Co.
Fire at Hampton at the Harper.
Summary of the coining trouble at Cable Rock Island Gas Fuel and Light Co. formed.
Death of Mrs. Anna Mckown at Davenport, an early settler of the county, aged 93 years.
Death of Hiram M. Grannell, an old resident of Moline, aged 72 years.
Mrs. Lucy Way, also of Cordova, died, aged 72 years.
Roger Lemin, of Port Byron, one of the earliest settlers of the county, died, aged 87 years.
Death of Mrs. Alma M. Hurst, an old resident of the city, aged 76 years.
The People's Light and Fuel company's gas plant in Moline destroyed by fire. Loss, $40,000.
Assignment of the Northern Mining and Railway company at Hamilton.

MARCH.

Death of William Hurst, one of the early settlers of the county, aged 83 years.
Incorporation of Rock Island at Stewartsville, now a flourishing city of the county, aged 72 years.

MAY.

The Brooks property purchased by the Twin-City Columbian Exposition association for a consideration of $2,500.
Incorporation of the Tri-City Base Ball Park.
Death of H. W. West, an old resident, aged 64 years.
Death of B. D. Buford, one of Rock Island's best known citizens, aged 87 years.

JUNE.

The high water reaches its greatest height at the Rock Island bridge, the stage being 19.10.
Brooks Tyson shoots his wife and then kills himself.

JULY.

Great Twin-City Columbian celebration and demonstration, 15,000 to 20,000 visitors.
Death of Jonas Jackson at Moline, aged 76. He was one of the oldest settlers of the county.
Twenty-seven inmates in the county jail saw their way out and escaped.
Work on the Hennepin canal formally begun at Milan in the presence of delegations from the three cities.
The street railway syndicate banquets the press and officials of the three cities at Black Hawk's Watch tower.

AUGUST.

Three girls drowned in the Mississippi river at Port Byron.
Fire destroyed six business houses at Milan, with a loss of over $6,000.
Death of Lewis der Gleekhoff, a pioneer of the county, aged 86 years.

SEPTEMBER.

The Rock Island-Moline team wins the last game of the season and the championship of the league.
Rock Island and Moline joined with brick pavement with appropriate ceremonies.
Death of E. Reynolds, an old and honored citizen, died at Wymore, Neb., aged 76 years.
The Young Man's Stevenson club formed.

OCTOBER.

Death of Rev. Maria Reisel, a resident of the city since 1848.
A. M. Lewis, of Minneapolis, falls from a train on the slough bridge and is instantly killed.
Dr. Patrick Geary, the venerable pioneer citizen, passes away at the advanced age of 82 years.
Death of Mrs. Sarah Seaver, at Reynolds, an old resident of the county, aged 79 years.

NOVEMBER.

Death of Lieut. Frederick Schwatka at Portland, Oregon, in his forty second year.
The Rock Island Gas Works sold to the Brush Electric company for a consideration of $75,000.
John Vandervoer, an old resident of Andalusia, died, aged 79 years.
Grand democratic demonstration in honor of the glorious victory.
Rock Island selected as the location of the head offices of the Modern Woodmen of America.
Mrs. Rebecca Walsh, a venerable old lady who resided here since 1845, passes away.
Elmer F. Tindal killed by the accidental discharge of a gun while out hunting near his home in Rural.
The Dimick Black Hawk statue in Spencer square dedicated with appropriate ceremonies.

DECEMBER.

Formation of the three breweries in the city into the Rock Island Brewing company, with a capital stock of $1,000,000.
Second annual banquet and ball of the Tri-City Travelers' association.
Meeting held at THE ARGUS office looking to the formation of the Tri-City Press club.

SOUVENIR STAMPS.

The Latest Thing in World's Fair Novelties.

MILLIONS OF THEM AT CHICAGO.

All Designed Especially for the Columbian Year—Promise of a Remarkable Floral Display—A Feature of the Johore Exhibit—The Malay "Sarong"—Krupp's Big Gun and the Preparation Making to Bring It West—A Word About the Machinery Hall Display.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Thirteen million Columbian postage stamps were received at the postoffice Thursday and yesterday from Washington. They will be placed on sale Tuesday and a tremendous rush to secure the latest World's fair novelty is expected. The stamps are about twice the size of ordinary postage stamps and from an artistic standpoint surpass anything ever issued by the government. The stamps are of every denomination from 1 cent to $5. The quantity of each is in proportion to the average demand. Of the 1-cent kind 5,000,000 are in stock and 8,000,000 2-cent ones. Very few $5 stamps were received.

Expects an Enormous Demand.

Postmaster Sexton expects an enormous demand for the Columbian stamps. It is customary for many of the big wholesale firms to send out tons of matter early in the new year, and several of his largest customers have been waiting for the arrival of the new stamps. "There is no danger of the supply running out," Mr. Sexton said. "The postoffice department had 2,000,000,000 of them printed enough to supply the demand for an ordinary year. We will get Columbian envelopes, stamped, and in a short time the old issue will be entirely displaced."

The Educational Exhibit.

Director General Davis has definitely settled the location of the educational exhibit. It will be in the south gallery of the manufactures and liberal arts building. The space assigned to it is 175,000 square feet gross. The commercial exhibits to be made in the liberal arts department will occupy the southwest portion of this gallery, a space of about 80,000 square feet. The bureau of hygiene and sanitation and charities and correction will be installed in the new ethnological building. The space awarded in the educational exhibit to Brother Maurelian for the Roman Catholic public educational exhibit amounts to 20,000 square feet.

Will Be Acres of Flowers.

About $25,000 worth of decorative plants have already arrived at Jackson park, and are grouped in horticultural hall. Chief Samuels says the collection is one of the finest in the world, and the plants have just commenced to arrive. A car load of flowers from Costa Rica, chiefly orchids, were frozen last week in transit. Oil lamps were used to heat the cars, and they did not furnish enough heat. There are now 9,000 primroses in the greenhouse, grown from seed sent here by the foremost horticulturists of Italy, Germany, France, Great Britain, and the United States.

Floral Freaks from Japan.

Japan will send more freaks to the fair, in the way of odd and unique plants and trees, than any other nation in the world. Already a number of dwarf oak and evergreen trees, some of them less than three feet high, have arrived at Jackson park and are carefully packed away until spring. These were sent by the Japanese government. Chief Samuels received information yesterday that a number of private horticulturists would supplement this display with exhibits from their own gardens. These will be in the form of those peculiar ornamental plants for which the flowery kingdom is noted.

KRUPP'S GREAT GUN EXHIBIT.

Preparing at Baltimore to Transport it to Chicago.

A telegram from Baltimore says: "The Maryland Steel company's enormous shearlegs at the marine works at Sparrow's Point are nearly ready to receive Krupp's 124 ton gun to be exhibited at Chicago. The hydraulic mechanism by which the shears will be worked is completed. New trestle work has been erected under the bridge of the Baltimore and Sparrow's Point railroad across Bear Creek to give the structure great strength for supporting the great weight of the gun. Sparrow's Point is the only place on the Atlantic seaboard of the United States that possesses shears of sufficient lifting power to handle the great piece of ordinance.

Some Facts About the Gun.

"It is said of the big gun that its length—eighty-seven feet—is almost twice that of the biggest gun in this country, which is forty-five feet long. It is claimed that if fired on the lake front at Chicago the concussion would be so great that it would shatter nearly all the window glass in Chicago. The gun will carry a ball fifteen or sixteen miles, from the lake front and over the suburbs of Evanston. The projectile's initial velocity is 4,500 feet a second. The gun and the several pieces of smaller ordnance and armor plate to comprise the Krupp exhibit at the World's fair will likely be brought over next month. The special cars being constructed by the Pennsylvania Railroad company to carry the exhibit to Chicago will be finished and delivered at Sparrows' Point in a couple of weeks.

Special Cars to Carry It.

"The cars will be the largest ever built in the world. One of the cars will be about the length of the largest trucks now in use commonly termed the 'scully,' but it will be built almost entirely of iron. It will be a flat truck placed on thirty-two unusually large and strong wheels. This will be used for transporting one piece of freight—the 124-ton cannon—the heaviest single article that will ever have been handled. The other car will be used for carrying two smaller pieces of ordnance, the joint weight of which will be sixty-five tons, and one piece of steel armor plate thirty-two feet in length and eleven feet wide. This car will really consist of two cars, with thirty-two wheels, each joined by an iron bridge, presenting the appearance of one long car with sixty-four wheels.

The Sarongs of Johore.

Among the exhibits at the fair from the domain of the sultan of Johore, a small independent sultanate north of Singapore, whose subjects were years ago the dreaded Malay pirates, will be an elaborate display of sarongs. Sarongs are garments which the women of the south sea islands use as substitutes for skirts, and some of them are beautiful in texture and design and are very artistically decorated. These women take the same pride in their sarongs that the women of New England used to take, and perhaps do to-day, in their patchwork quilts and table linen. A single sarong sometimes represents the labor of eight or ten months. There will also be on exhibition a magnificent and very valuable collection of krises and other Malay weapons, some of them richly decorated with jewels, and various kinds of plate armor. These are the property of the sultan.

Exhibits in Machinery Hall.

Mention of the exhibits in the World's fair machinery hall is a matter of interest to many readers. The most notable exhibits will consist of all kinds of engines, ranging from 500 to 2,000 horse power. The largest exhibit will weigh thirty tons, while the smallest engine will weigh only nine pennyweights ten grains. Machine tools and wood-working machinery will also make an important part of Chief Robinson's department. The printing presses of the most modern type and in operation will be another feature of this great department. Bookbinding machinery and type-setting machines, all in full blast, may be seen there also.

The French Ladies at Work.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The second meeting of the French ladies' committee for the Chicago exhibition has just been held in the grand drawing room, Elysee Palace, under the presidency of Mme. Carnot, supported by M. Camille Krantz and M. Georges Berger, deputies. Many distinguished ladies were present, and Mme. Carnot performed her part with much grace and tact. The members of the committee have been divided into subcommittees, which are now holding meetings. A general meeting at the Elysee will be held in January, when the final work will be done. The French woman's exhibit will be so large and extensive that already requests for more space have been sent to Mrs. Potter Palmer.

Big Demand for Souvenirs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The treasury department has received a telegram from President Higinbotham, of the World's fair, asking for an additional shipment of 100,000 souvenir coins. Orders were at once given to push the vouchers through the several bureaus, and it is expected that the coin will reach Chicago by next Wednesday. The demand for the coin still continues strong.

His Ideal Dress.

"Talk about winmin's clothes," he was bleating disordantly in a know it all voice, "let I had my way I'd hev 'em lookin sensible and not all kerflummoxed up with gewgaws. I'd jest like to dress 'em 'cordin tew my notion."

"You wouldn't let them wear trains to their dresses?" suggested one of his auditors.

"Not muchee I wouldn't."

"No corsets, eh?"

"No, sir; nor stiff boned waists, eyether."

"Suppose you tell us just how you would have them rig themselves out."

"Suttenly, suttenly. I'd have 'em wear a broadcloth skirt and a loose jacket for comfort. Ain't that all right?"

"Go on."

"Short skirts to be tidy—jist comin to the tops of their shoes."

"Yes, what kind of shoes?"

"Soft leather shoes, shaped like a human foot, sir, and flexible like a glove."

"All right—and their hats?"

"Somethin like a veil or a mantilly, but no sich styles as they wear now, you bet. And I'd have the hair hanging down their back in a nice shiny braid."

"There's women that dress like that now," said one of his listeners.

"Show one to me and I'll marry her termorrow."

"I saw one just the other day, and that was her style to a dot."

"What was she doin?"

"Selling baskets and moccasins on the dock. She had a blanket over her head."

But the crank who knew how a woman should dress had suddenly disappeared.—Detroit Free Press.

Raleigh's Death.

The record of men who live nobly may be worthily supplemented by that of the souls who depart this life like Christian gentlemen. Charles I and Louis XVI went through the ordeal of execution with the fine solemnity befitting a king in such extremity, and Sir Walter Raleigh died in a manner befitting his life and purposes.

On the morning of his execution he turned to his old friend, Sir Hugh Creston, who had tried to approach the scaffold and was repulsed by the sheriff, with the smiling remark:

"Never fear but I shall have a place!"

A little later a very bald man pressed forward to see Raleigh and pray with him. Sir Walter took off his own embroidered cap and placed it on the head of this spectator, saying:

"Take this, good friend, to remember me, for you have more need of it than I."

"Farewell, my lords," he said to the courtiers who came to take affectionate leave of him. "I have a long journey before me, and I must say goodby."

Then he reached the scaffold, and said as he did so, "Now I am going to God." He touched the ax gently and continued:

"This is a sharp medicine, but it will cure all diseases."

The very executioner shrank from beheading him, but the illustrious prisoner exclaimed:

"What dost thou fear? Strike, man!" and so ended a gentle and fearless life.—Youth's Companion.

Hard on the Absent.

Flowery Young Clergyman (conducting a children's service while occupying a pulpit for a brother clergyman en route to Europe)—Well, children, I am very glad to be able to address you today. I'd a great deal rather talk to you children than to the older people, for I love children. But instead of talking to you I want to talk with you; so when I ask any questions you may answer promptly. Now, children, what have we to be thankful for today?

Children—Flowers, birds, sunlight, church, school, homes.

Young Clergyman—All very well, children, very well. But whom do we miss today.

Children (viva voce)—Mr. Twitchell.

Young Clergyman—Quite right, children, quite right. We all miss Mr. Twitchell. Who can tell me where he is today?

Children—On the ocean.

Young Clergyman (poetically)—Yes, children on the ocean and half seas over.—Yankee Blade.

No Sunset for Five Days.

At the head of the Gulf of Bothnia there is a mountain on the summit of which the sun shines perpetually during the five days of June 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. Every six hours during this season of continual sunshine a steamer leaves Stockholm crowded with visitors anxious to witness the phenomenon. At the same place during winter the sun disappears and is not seen for weeks; then it comes in sight again for ten, fifteen or twenty minutes, gradually lengthening its stay until finally it stays in sight continuously for upward of 120 hours.—St. Louis Republic.

SHOPPING IN LONDON.

American Purchasers Find Themselves Much in Need of a Glossary.

Either the English salesman is an abnormally tactless individual or he has been accustomed to generations of shoppers whose mental capacity has been of the smallest, for he invariably treats one as though one were an idiot of the very first water. As I have said, unless the customer knows exactly what she wants and asks for it in language understood by this popular people, she runs a very slim chance of getting anything at all. Thus, she must not ask for "muslin," but for "long cloth," while if she wants some "swiss" she must ask to be shown "muslin." If she wants some "calico" for her servants' dresses she must not ask for that, but for "print."

"Calico," on the other hand, must be asked for if one wants some cotton or twill sheeting. She must not speak of a "spool of cotton" unless she wants to be greeted with the stony stare of vacuous ignorance, but for a "reel of thread," and then it may be placed before her with the smirking query, "And the nex' thing, midim?" for it may be noted that salesmen and saleswomen—who, by the way, have not yet attained the doubtful elevation of our sales "ladies" and "gentlemen"—"midim" their feminine customers to the verge of exasperation. Again, if you ask for a pair of shoes, what in America are known as "ties" will be offered to you, while if you ask for "boots" you may possibly get what you want, though it is hardly probable. The English boot is adapted to the English foot. "You have an American foot," said a bootmaker the other day, "and I haven't a boot in my shop that will really fit you." An American woman's only chance of getting what she can wear upon her feet in this country is to go to a French shop, and then she has to pay about 50 per cent. more than in New York.

You must not ask for a "white skirt," but for a "top petticoat;" a skirt here is only used in describing the outer and visible garment, the inner and more spiritual affairs are all "petticoats." Similarly if one speaks of "a waist," as transatlantic phrase is wont to term the upper portion of a street or other dress, the dressmaker will turn on one with a pitying smile and remark, "Do you mean a body or a bodice?" while the American "bodice" is here an "underwaist." While if a reference is made to "corsets" she will correct one in the same tender fashion, "Oh, you mean a pair of stays." Don't ask for a "morning wrapper" but for a "dressing gown."

If you want a pair of "rubbers" to guard against the London slush and mud, don't try to buy them under that name, but ask for "goloshes." The English have a tradition that Americans all refer to the articles as "gums," and declare that we ordinarily request a visitor to "wipe his gums on the doormat," a harmless double entendre which affords them the keenest enjoyment. If you want some coarse "Swiss" with which to make servants' caps you must know it by the name of "book muslin," or you will never get it, for, as I have said, the English salesman never cares to meet one half way and try to find out what the customer wants.

If one were to ask for "paper muslin" he would probably have a fit. He only knows it as "glazed cambric" and resents any other nomenclature. As to things not essentially feminine, but still in the women's department as purchasing agents, "bedspreads" are "quilts," even if not "quilted;" "tidies" are "antimacassars" and "window shades" are "blinds," whether of the roller or Venetian order mattering not.—London Cor. Boston Transcript.

Ornamentation of Old Chests.

The method of decoration by means of redhot irons was employed in Great Britain chiefly on cypress wood chests—"spruce chests," as they were termed. Cypress wood was believed to preserve against moth and cloth clothes, tapestry curtains, and silks and velvets were put into them. They were much in fashion in the reign of James I of England and VI of Scotland, and they are frequently decorated with subjects from the hunting field, sketched in by means of skewers heated by the fire. The men are dressed in the ugly trunk hose of the period.

It will generally be found that the ornamentation inside the lid of such a spruce chest is quite as rich as that on the front. The top of the chest is always left plain, as it was used as a seat—that is to say, the outside of the lid was undecorated; the inside presents a picture, always in good preservation, as it has been thoroughly protected. As far as the writer's experience goes the oak chests were not carved inside on the under part of the lid; this decoration was used exclusively for the "spruce chests." Some of these cypress chests are not only long, but deep, and are formed of slabs of beautiful well grown trees of very considerable age. We have no reason for supposing that the cypress wood was not home grown, and it would show that very stately and ancient cypresses must have adorned our old gardens.—Cornhill Magazine.

Injurious Employments.

Nitric acid is employed as a solvent for tin in making dyes; by engravers to etch copper; in the manufacture of gun cotton; in the gilding trades, and in preparing the felt for hats. The fumes of it are more irritating to human throats and lungs than is a red rag to a bull, and they cause no end of bronchial and catarrhal affections. The workers in various branches of trade suffer from the fumes of ammonia. They cause inflammation of the eyes and a peculiar skin disease, which it has been suggested may be due to the formation of a soap by the union of the ammonia with the liquid of the lubricating skin glands. If that be true every man could be a peripatetic soap factory. Men employed in guano works become deaf, and the skin of their noses and foreheads is peculiarly discolored by the ammonia. Their strength fails, and they suffer from anæmia.—New York World.

A Queer Library.

A curious collection of books is contained in the library of Warstentein, near Cassel, in Germany. The books appear at first sight to be logs of wood, but each volume is really a complete history of the tree it represents. The back shows the bark, in which a small place is cut to write the scientific and common name as a title. One side shows the tree trunk in its natural state and the other is polished and varnished. Inside are shown the leaves, fruit, fiber and insect parasites, to which is added a full description of the tree and its products.—Million.

Quickly Told.

Friend—What was your graduation essay about?

Mabel—"What the Astronomers Know About Mars."

"Dear me! Why did you choose that subject?"

"Because I didn't have time to write much."—New York Weekly.

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