

REMINISCENCES.

T. A. Ely Tells of the First Settlement in Alma.

We shall, from time to time, publish sketches of the early history of Alma, the facts for which will be obtained from the pioneers who have watched its growth.

The family of Gen. Ralph Ely came to Alma from Iowa county in April, 1854, and was the first family to form a permanent settlement here, locating on the north side of the river, almost exactly where Tinker & Lancashire's office now stands.

No sooner had the sturdy pioneers built for themselves rude log houses and provided shelter for their stock than they took steps to start a school.

The time of the settlers was entirely devoted to clearing the land, building log houses and barns and locating new settlers, a few of whom came in the fall and early winter.

During this first season Gen. Ely cleared about ten acres of land lying west and north of Tinker & Lancashire's mill.

The first winter a saw mill was built, owned by Messrs. Bird and Wilkinson. Gen. Ely built the mill, afterwards taking one-half interest in the same for his pay.

During the first winter so many came looking for land, that it was impossible at times to provide accommodation for them. As many as 30 and 40 have slept on carpets on the floor of Gen. Ely's home in one night, with blankets and furs for covering.

During the summer of 1855, the country settled rapidly. John Glover, Samuel Keefer, Lafayette Church, Oscar Morse, Dr. Gilford, George Spicer, and a man named Fletcher, and the Corters, John and his father, settled here, and also a man named Runyon, who located on what is known as the Wright farm, and made a great many improvements during the first year.

This year was built the first school house. It was located where the Wright house now stands, and the same building is now used by Caldwell & Clark as a blacksmith shop.

The first religious service in Alma was held at the residence of Gen. Ely, conducted by a Universalist minister named Todd.

A Baptist preacher named Fay sometimes held service in this hospital home. After the school house was built, it was used as a "meeting" house "circuit riders" and "exhorters" conducting the services.

The junior exhibition occurs next Tuesday evening.

President Braske preached in Battle Creek last Sunday.

Richard Sibley preached in the Presbyterian church in Munger last Sunday.

Miss Ellsworth, Kindergarten department, has returned to her home in Marlett, for a few weeks' rest.

Birdsey Bates, while at work in the "gym" Tuesday, fell with considerable force, striking on his back, straining himself severely.

It cost several of the young gentlemen 65 cents to spring a "joke" on President Braske, and then the "joke" recoiled on their own heads.

The Froebel Society gave a reception to the seniors last Monday evening. Work illustrative of the work of the Kindergarten was shown, toasts given, and a very excellent address by Miss Adams.

Miss Ingless, at one time the teacher of Modern languages in the college, has presented the Alpha Theta society a fine portrait, handsomely framed, of Joan of Arc. The picture was given in honor of the late Mrs. Eply.

School Notes

Miss Mae Sargent is on the sick list. Silence reigns supreme in the high school room.

The Physics class has commenced the study of electricity.

We are all glad that the forced vacation of Mr. Ely is at an end, and that he is with us again.

The high school boys are about to complete arrangements with the Ithaca high school boys, for a field day contest between the two schools.

Our new Preceptress, Miss Stepanek, is a lover of quiet and order. She governs in a way that commands obedience and respect.

One of the young ladies in the chemistry class bathed her arm in nitric acid the other day. The experiment was out of the regular line and caused a great deal of excitement and comment.

The object of the experiment has not been made known.

Religious Notes.

METHODIST. Morning, "What is man," evening, "Christ and the repentant thief on the cross." All are invited.

BAPTIST. Rev. A. H. Beaver, morning and evening. All are invited.

PRESBYTERIAN. Morning subject, The Macedonian cry. Evening subject, What is faith? The fourth of the series. All are invited.

Y. P. S. C. E. Mertha Peters, leader.

B. Y. P. U. Emma Carpenter, leader.

EPWORTH LEAGUE. Nettie Greig, leader.

For Left Handed Musicians.

Violins are adapted for the use of left handed players by reversing the order of the strings and the location of the bass bar and sounding post.

There are no left handed pianos. Guitars are made left handed simply by reversing the strings.

The proportion of musical instruments made left handed is extremely small, very much less than 1 per cent.—New York Sun.

John Bull and His Pills.

Between 5,000,000 and 7,000,000 pills of one kind or another are estimated to be daily consumed in the United Kingdom. The estimate is based on the actual daily sales by druggists of ordinary pills, prescription pills and patent medicine pills.

Glasgow and the Ticket Clerk. Here is an anecdote of the late Lord Glasgow. His lordship was traveling by rail and tendered a "flyer" to the booking clerk for a ticket to Glasgow.

At the Landing. She—it takes two hours to dock an ocean steamer.

Accomplished. Over the shop of a barber in the Isle of Man who supplies his customers with all kinds of fishing tackle may be read "Patent Repository, Tonsorial Artist, Physiological Hairdresser, Cranium Manipulator, Capillary Abductor, Shawl and Hair Cutting with Anallidextro, Facility Shampooing on Philological Principles."

English Churches. The English people have a deep seated love for their old churches and cathedrals, and they spend money lavishly for their preservation.

With Emphasis. Neighbor—Bertie, your mother is calling you.

Neighbor—Yes, um, I know it, but I fancy she don't want me very bad.

Bertie—Yes, I know, but she hasn't called "Albert" yet.—American Hebrew.

To criticize was originally to pass an opinion upon, whether favorable or otherwise and the fact that most opinions are unfavorable is indicated in the present signification of the word.

We have more power than will, and it is often by way of excuse to ourselves that we fancy things are impossible.—Roche Foucauld.

MELONS FROM DUST.

ONLY FRUIT THAT WILL GROW IN THE STAKED PLAINS.

Large and Juicy Watermelons Produced on the "Great American Desert," Where It Never Rains—A Partial Explanation of the Mystery.

When a stranger visits these "staked plains" of Texas, he soon learns not to be surprised at anything he sees.

The "Great American desert" and one of the driest parts of the world. He finds by actual observation that few crops will grow here on account of the dryness.

Every farmer's boy knows that ordinarily the watermelon requires a great deal of moisture before it will grow well. It also generally requires shade.

Boys accustomed to look for melons in such places as that would be surprised to find them in this country lying out on the open prairie, where the hot sun glares down on them all day long.

And such melons as there are too! Long, slender ones and big round ones; light green ones, dark green ones and striped ones—and all prodigious, big fellows.

The method of cultivating watermelons on the staked plains is comparatively simple. It consists in making a small hole in the ground and dropping a seed into it.

It is easy to find a partial explanation as to how the melons subsist in such a dry region. The explanation involves an understanding of the water supply on the plains, which in itself is a remarkable matter.

There are several reasons why the "Panhandle" of Texas has not attracted any more attention than it has in the watermelon markets of the world.

Miss Sweet sixteen—Do you believe in the single tax? Miss Passes—Emphatically. I believe every bachelor should be taxed so heavily that he would have to marry in self defense.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Meretricious Feminine Fray. Miss Passes indulged in somewhat withering sarcasm when she was talking of you.

It is her privilege, poor thing. She is somewhat withering herself.—Indianapolis Journal.

The Right Place TO BUY YOUR CLOTHING, FURNISHING GOODS AND SHOES

IS AT THE Big "Up-to-Date" Clothing and Model Shoe House

Where you can get just what you want. Style, Quality, Fit and Workmanship at Lowest Prices.

WE HAVE THEM ALL. Men's and Boys' Suits, Men's and Boys' Pants, Men's and Boys' Mackintoshes, Shirts, Hats, Caps, Nobby Neckwear, Trunks and Valises

Shoes and Hosiery for you all. Everything guaranteed as represented at F. E. POLLASKY'S.

MARKET REPORT. Wheat, white, 81, wheat, red, 81, oats, 20, corn, old ear, 15, corn, shelled, 15, potatoes, 80, beans, 15, apples per bu, 81-81.50, clover seed, \$4.25-4.50, butter, 16-17, eggs, 12, honey, 10, onions, per bu, 80, green hides, 80.

All last winter Mr. Geo. A. Mills, of Lebanon, Conn., was badly afflicted with rheumatism. At times it was so severe that he could not stand up straight.

HE SOARED DOWN. The Sensations of a Man Who Fell With an Elevator. "Did you ever fall down an elevator shaft?" asked a traveling man.

ARE BUILT TO RIDE. Strictly High Grade in Every Particular. The Phoenix Racer WEIGHT, 19 POUNDS.

YOUR CHOICE OF three sizes, 22, 24 and 26 in. frames, finished in either maroon or black; four styles of tires; four styles of handle bars; three styles of saddles; two styles of pedals; weight from 19 lb. to 24 lb.

The Ladies' Phoenix is the same as the Gents' Wheel with the exception of the difference in frame. CARIS BROWN, Agent. Expect sample wheel April 1st.

PROBATE ORDER—State of Michigan, County of Gratiot, ss. At a session of the Probate Court for said county, held at the Probate Office in the village of Ithaca on the 10th day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-severy.

PROBATE NOTICE—State of Michigan, County of Gratiot, ss. Notice is hereby given, that the final account of Luman Rice, the administrator of the estate of Mary Ann Hopkins, late of Gratiot county, Michigan, deceased, will be shown by me at the Probate Office, in the village of Ithaca, in said county, on Monday, the 13th day of April next, at ten o'clock a. m. of said day.

G. MEYER, The Reliable Drugist, Elwell. Choice Wines and Liquors constantly on hand for medicinal use.

It Speaks Volumes. When we say that our trade is keeping up to the average eye during this dull season. Our practice of giving absolute values for every dollar spent in our store, encourages people to buy and insures them fair treatment.

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