



JUST LISTEN and we'll tell you about our Household Furniture—the largest and most complete in town. But not only that. It is the highest in quality and the most durable in service. We can furnish a whole house, a single room or a solitary article; and we are sure that everything we sell will give you unlimited satisfaction.

FOSTER & RITTER, Opposite Post Office

EXCURSIONS VIA THE PERE MARQUETTE

ON
SUNDAY, SEPT. 12th
TO
Greenville

Train will leave Belding at 12:35 a. m. Returning, leave Greenville at 6:00 p. m.

ROUND TRIP FARES
To Greenville \$ 25

GIBSON'S Cash Store.

MONEY
Makes the Mare go. We can save you
MONEY

—TRY US—
18 lbs. Granulated sugar \$1.00
3 lbs. of 40c tea 1.00
2 1/2 lbs. 50c tea 1.00
5 lbs. Jap Rice55
3 lbs. Fancy Seeded Raisins25
1500 matches10

Come in and get our prices.
GIBSON'S
Phone 208 Bridge St.

Electric Bitters

Succeed when everything else fails. In nervous prostration and female weaknesses they are the supreme remedy, as thousands have testified.
FOR KIDNEY, LIVER AND STOMACH TROUBLE
It is the best medicine ever sold over a druggist's counter.

EXCURSIONS VIA THE PERE MARQUETTE

ON
Sunday
Sept. 5
TO
Grand Rapids

Train will leave Belding at 10:22 a. m. Returning leave Grand Rapids at 6:15 p. m.

Round trip fare 65c

Religious Jokes

Editor Banner:—It often happens that out of the most serious things come the best jokes, and out of the hugest joke comes the strongest suggestion of a need for progressive measures.

Your comments upon Mr. Loomis' sermons and your conclusion that he cannot hope to be ordained as a Methodist minister, are decidedly amusing to me, and suggests a few plain conclusions.

The facts are that Mr. Loomis was ordained a Methodist minister, I think about five years ago.

Personally, speaking to make things plain, I would rather be understood than to be simply elegant. And if as illiterate a bigot as he was when ordained can take ordination at the hands of the Methodist church while a man of his present scholarly attainments, keen perceptions and practical application of moral virtues cannot be ordained because of the creed, it is about the biggest joke that could be perpetrated upon the Methodist church, and delegates it to the sixteenth century.

On every hand we hear the cry. Why does not our church draw more of our business men to it? Why do so many of our best educated men entirely ignore it? Why do so many of our very respectable young men women fail to affiliate with it?

Mr. Loomis met with some other experiences while in your city. Visiting one of your business places where he was a stranger, he incidentally drew from one of your most respected business men the fact that the latter seldom attended church. When asked why, the business man frankly said: "Well, to begin with, there are just two kinds of preachers—one a set of ignorant fools, the other a pack of hypocrites who don't believe half they preach." Many as the exceptions are that may be taken to this man's statement, it remains painfully true.

That the old time preacher with his theological sophistry, his iron-clad creed, which put faith above understanding, does not appear to meet the modern demands for greater knowledge of religious truth. The demand today is for teachers who can lead religious themes out of the creed bound lethargy of a lazy preacher, a class of preachers your fellow citizen seemed to have overlooked. He also overlooked another class who are diplomats. Presumably they believe something. Yet they say things in such a way that both extreme orthodox and extreme heterodox claim them as typical leaders and exponents.

Recently I heard from a pulpit these three propositions in the course of a single sermon: "Christ was the son of an obscure carpenter and the virgin Mary." Again "Christ was God's own begotten son." The logic of these propositions is that God was, and is, an obscure carpenter. Farther on, "Christ was the son of David." Logic, David was God, a doctrine believed by his subjects. I thought it was too absurd to be taught now.

In another sermon I heard this: "Christ was a man because he died, and God can not and could not die." Then: "Christ was God, because in his last agonies of death he cried out in a loud voice." The first proposition said God can not die. The second said he did die.

Is it anything strange that many thinking people look upon the church as perfunctory rather than practical or interesting, that they regard it as an incident rather than a necessity?

One thing is sure, the church that will give an open pulpit, with high educational requirements, is the one that will soon take the lead, and interest the business man, the educated man, the young man and even the skeptic and the atheist.

There is little to be feared as to what will come to such men as Mr. Loomis, some Methodists will follow him. If the Methodist church prefers to remain in the sixteenth century, it has a perfect right to do so, but we do not think it will.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century, Gutenberg said: "God suffers in the great multitudes whom his sacred word can not reach; religious truth is captive in the small number of manuscript books, which guard the common treasure instead of diffusing." Because he invented printing, and facilitated the diffusing of truth, the priest craft procured his imprisonment and sought his life, but the multitude accepted his work and progressed.

Now, as then, all the bishops, priests and clergy of Christendom cannot stay for a decade the determination of the multitudes to apply correct principles of ancient philosophy and logic to

modern facts in science, thus supplanting the last trace and imprint of mythology with understanding, and the mysticism of man theology by the unfolding of God's commands, by a perfect knowledge of things as they are, making them at once consistent, logical and practical to a larger extent than has yet been attained.

Judging from some comments by some of Belding's foremost business men, the Belding churches could be improved by a few more as good jokes as we have referred to.

J. E. Taylor.

Things To Think About

In this issue we print a few things that you, as a citizen of as good a country and county as the sun ever shone on, should give serious thought to every blessed moment from now until it is too late. There will be a time when it is too late, and we don't intend that anyone shall have the opportunity or any excuse whatever for saying, "I surely did not give those very things the attention they deserved." Here they are:—

That a few of your fellow citizens and friends are putting not a little of their time and money where it ought to interest every man, woman and child in this county.

That the old Ionia Fair is a thing of the past, and that Ionia's New Fair is a thing of the future.

That for you to sit "on the fence" and growl while this is going on, is a sin.

That the thing for you to do is to "get into the game;" look that premium list through, pick out the premiums you want, then when the time comes (it's Sept. 28 to Oct. 1) chase yourself and family to Ionia's New Fair with the article that deserves it, and you will get it.

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR
Cures Colds; Prevents Pneumonia



WEST MICHIGAN STATE FAIR'S GREAT CATTLE SHOW.

Noted for its cattle shows ever since its organization, the West Michigan State Fair of 1909, to be held in Grand Rapids, Sept. 12 to 17, will excel all past exhibitions on the Comstock park fair grounds. The premium list, augmented last year to \$4,600, helped to attract the highest class of entries, and the special awards offered by the Holstein-Friesian Breeders' and the American Shorthorn Breeders' associations still further enhanced the attractiveness of exhibits in this department.

The special dairy tests, which have been features of the past three West Michigan State Fairs, will be repeated this year. These will be conducted under the supervision of the state dairy and food department. For the purpose of encouraging economical production and business methods \$75 is offered, in four prizes of \$30, \$20, \$15 and \$10. The tests will be conducted during the entire period of the fair. Special rates on all railroads will be offered to patrons of the fair.

Two Social Functions

On Friday afternoon of last week Mrs. G. F. Smith and Mrs. M. C. Bentley entertained a company of ladies at a most delightful porch party, the decorations being golden glow in profusion. Five hundred was the game of the afternoon, Mrs. L. E. Green winning first prize, a beautiful cut glass dish. Elegant refreshments were served and a most social time enjoyed.

On Saturday afternoon Mrs. G. F. Smith was the hostess at a delightful porch party at her home on Washington street. Golden glow was the flower used for decoration and five hundred was the game played at seven tables, Mrs. W. B. Reed winning first prize. Fine refreshments were served and a pleasant time was enjoyed by all present.

Try BANNER want ads.

BELTING MARKETS

Corrected each week on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

Wheat-red	\$1 01
Wheat-white	1 01
Rye	63
Corn	70
Oats	40
Flour per cwt.	2 10
Beans	2 00
Hay, baled per ton	10 00
Potatoes	50
Butter	22
Eggs	20
Apples, per bushel	50
Chickens-live	10
Dressed Chickens	3 50@4 50
Cattle-live	6 75@7 00
Hogs-alive	9 50
Hogs-dressed	9 50
Hides	69

STATE FAIR Detroit, Sept. 2 TO 10 1909

Airships Race for \$5,000.00

Roy Knabenshue and Lincoln Beachey principals in the most thrilling exhibition ever witnessed.

Ships to rush through space at top speed. Seven heats to be run beginning Sept. 3 and every afternoon until Sept. 10. This race will attract people from all over the country. Records for flying will be broken.

FRED POSTAL, President
I. H. BUTTERFIELD, Secretary
A. J. DOHERTY, General Superintendent
JAMES SLOCUM, Assistant General Superintendent

ADMISSION
Adults 25c
Children 15c
Sunday Concert 25c
After 6 P. M. 15c
Grand Stand 25c

2 Big Bands 2 Sacred Concert Sunday
The Navassar Ladies' and Koppis Cincinnati bands are engaged to play during the fair. They are two of the finest organizations of the kind in the country.

Navassar Ladies' and Koppis Cincinnati Bands will give a Sacred Concert in the State Fair Grand Stand Sunday, September 5th., afternoon and evening.

Visit the Michigan State Fair during your vacation—it will revive and give you something to think about—come

Big Midway
Attractions will be better than ever. All new shows, clean and exciting. Best ever congregated. Midway shows do not open until Saturday, September 4th.

GENERAL HORSE RACES September 4 to 10—Thousands of dollars in prizes are offered and owners of fast horses from all over the country have made their entries.

CHILDREN'S DAY—FREE—A special program has been arranged for September 10th, consisting of games and contests at which prizes will be offered. Children under 12 admitted. Free Sept. 1.

TWO EMINENT SOLOISTS Wilmine Hamman and Bert Moepp, who are noted for "singing to beat the band," will be heard during the fair.

\$35,000 IN PRIZES
To be Distributed

DAN PATCH and MINOR HEIR The two fastest harness horses in the world will go in a race to beat their time and world's records Thursday, September 9th. No such important event was ever before offered the American people.

BIG FIREWORKS DISPLAY Gregory Fireworks Co., Chicago, will produce this display, beginning Saturday evening, September 4, and continue for five nights. Everything is new and imported for the occasion.

REDUCED RAILROAD RATES Every railroad entering Detroit will sell cheap tickets and run many excursions during the fair.

MINOR HEIR 1:59 1/4

DAN PATCH 1:55

YOU and your friends are cordially invited to visit our store on

DEMONSTRATION DAY

Saturday, September 4th,

We have just received a large assortment of In-er-seal Trade Mark Package Goods from the National Biscuit Company, who will send a representative to our store to demonstrate the cleanliness, goodness, crispness and superior quality of these goods and you will have an opportunity of sampling new products.

Very truly yours,

F. H. Hudson,
The Corner Store

Phone 22.

HOW ABOUT THAT PIANO?



We carry a complete line of High Grade Pianos and invite your most critical inspection.

Our pianos answer the requirements of the artist as well as the average musician. Start your boy or girl right by getting a good piano. The best is always cheapest in the end. See us before buying, our prices are reasonable and terms are easy. Let us place one in your home and convince you that the tone of our pianos is unequalled. Also a fine line of Violins, Harmonicas, Phonographs and Records, Sheet Music, Post Cards, etc.

Some excellent Bargains in SECOND HAND ORGANS.

Agents for the famous White Broze Monuments.

Call and see us,

W. D. POND,

So. Bridge St.

Belding, Mich.

Try Banner Clubbing Rates

Don't let the OPPORTUNITY SALE

Slip by without buying something at THE METROPOLITAN.

Remember The Sale Closes Saturday, September 4.

Many have taken advantage of the opportunity. Have you? If not don't miss it.

THE METROPOLITAN
A. FRIEDMAN, Prop.