

THE NEWS BOY

VOL. VII.

BENTON, MISSOURI, FEBRUARY 3, 1894.

NO. 2

FROM ORAN.

Joseph Bles' daughter, aged five or six, died last Saturday morning, and was buried at the Catholic cemetery near this place Sunday.

Rev. Howie preached to a fall house Sunday night, but on account of the sickness abroad in the land and the bad weather, concluded not to hold a series of meetings.

Snow balling and skating have been favorite amusements for our people the past few days.

Rev. Pierson, of Keislo, was here Monday.

Quarterly conference was held at the M. E. church at this place Monday morning, and it is rumored that the people have raised the money to pay their church debt.

Frank Zundel and wife and Miss Aisie Dyer visited the Cape Saturday last. Frank is as healthy as a pig and a hustler from away back.

James Martin, of Charleston, is here on a visit to relatives and friends.

The past few days of excessive cold weather have interfered with our building boom. But the sound of the hammer and saw can be heard in many directions to-day (Monday).

Rev. Brandt did not preach in English last Sunday night, to the regret of many of his protestant hearers.

New officers were elected by the Oran Literary last Friday night. Sam Allison is president and Miss Estelle Curry secretary. A committee was appointed to arrange another debate with the Morley club. Particulars later.

Rebt. Wright and wife went to New Madrid Sunday to see Miss Fannie Summers, who is reported dangerously ill. Miss Fannie is Mrs. Wright's sister.

Dr. John M. Rowe, of Charleston, was here a few hours Tuesday.

McClellan vs. Smith was the style of a suit before Judge Hale Tuesday.

Mrs. Noah Maddox is recovering from a three week's illness.

Mr. La Grand's new dwelling and business house will soon be ready for occupancy.

Mrs. Thomas and two children, of the Cape, visited Frank Zundel's family Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Clark, the musician, is with us again.

Collector White was here Tuesday looking as delicate as ever.

Mrs. James Spradling has the grip.

"Hasy" Moss, the horse trader, was here Tuesday "going around" with the boys.

W. F. Ford, of Delta, was here Tuesday.

Albert DeReign, of Benton, was here Tuesday on legal business.

John Moore's fine gray horse is about to recover from an injury which was thought would prove fatal.

Mr. Poe, the insurance man of Diehlstadt, was here Tuesday. Mr. P. got his foot frost bitten while acting as juror in the Owens inquest.

Bert Ringo is building a residence between Lum Montgomery's and Mr. McMullen's.

Joseph Smith moved into the Hess property Tuesday.

Master Weldon Allison is on the sick list.

Toothache is prevalent, if not fashionable, in Oran.

Grandma Reichert has a patient brought from the Cape for treatment. Use.

—Mud, slush, mire! That is what we have in Scott county. Will it ever cease? Good roads make intercourse more easy, life more enjoyable, and they are, in fine, an index of the progressiveness and civilization of a community. Our roads are no better to-day than thirty years ago. Will we never advance in this particular?

—Mr. De Reign has bought and will build himself a residence on the lot north of Tom Adams'.

—Squire J. A. Kirkpatrick, of Diehlstadt, paid us a pleasant visit Tuesday. He reported that there was some talk in his locality in favor of lynching Owens, in case the evidence at the preliminary hearing established his guilt beyond a doubt.

FROM MORLEY.

Drummers are plentiful on our streets and all report times getting better, especially in Southeast Missouri.

Richard McGinnis, one of our best citizens, died of consumption last Wednesday. His family have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community in their sad bereavement.

R. L. Harrison and V. L. Harris are putting up ice, on the principle that "a small loaf is better than no bread."

A Peavine special came in Sunday with President Lewis Houck and the other high officials. They inspected the Iron Mountain water tank, depot and section house. I expect they intend building here this spring.

The county delegates of the Epworth League met here last Saturday and transacted various business. We are glad to say that the League is getting to a strong body in Scott county.

Geo. Tomlinson made a flying trip to Oran last Sunday.

Uncle Tom Higgins went up to Randall's last Friday to see how his restaurant is getting along.

Born, to the wife of Jeff Dunlap, a big boy. Jeff says he is a sure Jim Corbett.

Capt. J. W. Gordon has resigned his position as tank man at this place and the duty falls upon our agent.

Our citizens are talking of Albert De Reign for Representative, and I think a better man for the place could not be found.

The revival meeting is still in progress and the good interest of last week still continues.

Morley is to have a brickyard here. A Mr. Cole, from Kentucky, was here and contracted with Dick Hunter for the wood and ground. Old Sox.

—The local G. A. R. Lodge at their meeting last Saturday elected officers for the ensuing year, as follows: L. L. Prall, Post Commander; C. Grojean, S. V. Commander; A. P. Carter, J. V. Commander; Jas. K. P. Chewning, Quartermaster; Dr. G. H. Scholz, Surgeon; G. G. Cahill, Chaplain; C. P. Butler, Officer of the Guard. The following were appointed: Geo. E. Clark, Adjutant; Phil. Gangel, Quartermaster Sergt.; W. W. Robertson, Sergt. Major.

—Ben Tenkoff is agent in Commerce for the Norman Cistern and Well Pump—the best pump in town to Science.

—We made a mistake last week as to the name of the play to be presented by the home dramatic club. It is "The Flower of the Family," not "The Fool of the Family." The latter is, however, an excellent farce.

—A. Maddax, a former resident of Scott county, but now of Stoddard, was here circulating among friends the first of the week.

—Joe Frubase, of Morley, was in Benton Wednesday and gave us a short call.

—Miss M. Clayton closed her school at Pleasant Valley on the 26th ult., with a nice entertainment and the presentation of two beautiful good conduct prizes. A good time was enjoyed by all.

—Dr. Butler has been under the weather part of this week. La Gr-r-rippe.

—Married, at New Hamburg on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1894, Will Bray, of Morley, to Miss Elizabeth La Fleur, of Sandywoods.

—The A. O. U. W. Hall scheme is to be pushed with vigor. There will be no difficulty in getting the wherewithal to build a hall that will benefit the Lodge, the town and the community generally.

—John Edmundson, of Sikeston, came up to inspect the cells of the old jail Monday. He accepted them and they will be put in Sikeston's new calaboose.

—Anton Meiderhoff, of New Hamburg, decorated the Newsboy office with smiles Tuesday. Before he left he let it leak out that a bran new boy was stopping at his house. Hence the smiles.

—For good Baled Hay, apply to W. C. Lambert, Benton.

SOUTHEAST NOTES.

De Soto is to have an ice factory. Also a fire-fighting outfit.

The Collegiate Institute will not be moved from Caledonia yet awhile. Fredericktown and Arcadia both offered the money and land required. Caledonia kicked about vested rights and threatened legal proceedings. Consideration of the matter has been referred to the conference next September.

Ste. Genevieve has put up \$25,000 toward the establishment of a brewery and ice plant. That's enterprise.

A gang of habitual thieves and toughs are in trouble at Ironton and are likely to do some service for the State.

Chesley Stokes, late editor of the Dexter Enterprise-Messenger, is said to be about to start a Prohibition paper in St. Louis. There is a good deal of Frank Mitchell in Charley's make-up.

Sympathy with a man who murdered a bar tender led the editor of the Jackson Psalm Book into a blunder for which he had to eat dirt last week.

Bro. Carruthers, of the Dunklin Democrat, has taken unto himself a wife. We wish him joy, and if he makes as good a husband as he does an editor, Mrs. Carruthers is a lucky woman.

The frogs were piping and the snakes taking constitutional down in Dunklin county before the recent cold snap.

Kenneth has provided herself with fire pumps, hose, ladders, etc., and can now cry "Come on if you dare" to the fire fiend.

Dunklin county has a female notary public—Miss Haidah C. Douglas, of Senath.

Ste. Genevieve and Perry counties are listening to the voice of the charmer, Louis Houck, and if they will back him as they should, he will find them a way out of the woods.

Bro. Martin, of the Charleston Enterprise, has been making alleged fun of some better man's grammar. Martin's own grammar is the laughing-stock of every printer in Southeast Missouri.

—If you find any inconvenience in reading by lamplight your eyes are probably failing. Don't strain them, but get a pair of spectacles at the Benton Drug Store where you can find a fine stock of new goods at prices to suit all pockets.

—Under the new law the appointment of road overseers takes place at the February term of county court.

—In a letter to the Newsboy Mr. Houck says: "We will soon put in an agent at the depot at Benton. We are getting ready to run the wire from Morley to Commerce and it is my intention to run a loop up into the town on the hill into some public place and have our agent there a part of the time to serve the public and in that way give better satisfaction. I don't want to give the people any just cause to complain."

—The Anchor line will again run a boat in competition with the Idlewild, but the latter will still be by far the most popular with merchants and passengers.

—The American Human Education Society sends us a copy of "The Strike at Shane's," a sequel to "Black Beauty." Like the latter it is a powerful plea for kindness to animals, and should be in the house of every farmer. The above society furnishes it at 10c a copy, and their address is Boston, Mass. Send for it, and see that the boys and the hired man read it.

—Mr. Walker went to St. Louis with a fine lot of stock last week. Prices ruled rather low.

—We hear of at least three brick yards likely to be run in Benton the coming season.

—Mrs. L. A. Townes is making considerable improvements on her premises, inside and out.

—J. F. Ewins, of Blodgett, was in to see us Tuesday. He reports a scarcity of money and an abundance of sickness in his neighborhood.

FROM BLODGETT.

Mrs. W. R. Sherer died at the family residence in Blodgett on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The bereaved husband and children have the heartfelt sympathy of the community in their great loss. Mrs. Sherer was about 39 years of age, and her untimely death is mourned as a personal loss by all who had the good fortune to know her. She was a consistent member of the Baptist church for several years previous to her death, and the burial service was performed under the ritual of that denomination at the graveyard in Richwoods, near Sikeston. "Death leaves a shining mark," and under his unerring aim has fallen one of our brightest and best.

We are glad to note the rapid recovery of J. W. Baty, M. G. Stubblefield, Jr., and Dr. J. S. Sparks from the recent epidemic of La Grippe.

J. D. Peal made a flying business trip to Cairo last Monday. He was accompanied on the return trip by H. F. Wilson, the Auctioneer, Taylor agent, at that place.

W. J. Rodgers has purchased a one-half interest in the Mammoth Marshall livery stable, and will be found in good shape to hustle drummers and similar gents about over the county.

C. C. Halstead has purchased and added to his real estate, the three lots and dwelling formerly owned and occupied by George Shouder.

Even Mary Yellin Lense can't escape the capricious critic. She is accused of wearing a false bang. That settles it. No woman who wears a false bang can ever be Governor of Kansas. Go for Mary Yellin!

A Baptist minister of the gospel, Rev. Maynard, of Bonne Terre, came down here last Saturday and preached at the Free Baptist church. His sermon did not equal the one delivered on the Mount, but it was reasonably good. The following night he preached at the M. E. church and in the middle of his discourse he became imbued with the idea that his sermon was falling short in its quality, and he began to apologize for his ignorance and short-comings in such a manner that several hard cases were moved to wipe moisture from their eyes. It was a novel experience to see a preacher acknowledge his weakness. They generally act on the supposition that the audience can't understand plain English, and the number of kids who are called to preach would astonish John the Baptist, but you never hear one of them deplore his short-comings in the least. He generally glories in the fact that he don't know anything, but trusts in the Lord to supply his mouth with words and food, of which latter he never fails to consume enough to last the whole family.

W. J. Sparks moved from town to one of Dr. R. A. Spark's farms three miles south of town last Tuesday. W. J. Rodgers now occupies the house vacated by Mr. Sparks.

In these later days, when you hear two men calling each other liars, it is more than likely both are telling the truth. SHAKO.

—FOR SALE, in Benton, a good six room house, lot 105 1/2 x 138 1/2 feet. Also a good shop, 25 x 75 feet, lot same size as above. Terms easy. Address H. L. Yeaker, Benton, Mo.

—Squire Lambert fell across a wagon tongue last week and severely injured his back. He is out again, however, but is of opinion that a couple of his ribs are fractured. We hope not.

—Mrs. Dan Cannon is very low with puerperal fever.

—Bald Timothy Hay for sale by Frank Miller, Benton, Mo.

—Mount Wade was in Butler, Cape and Wayne counties this week, gathering in the shekels for Uncle Sam.

—Mules, Horses and Mares to sell on time by J. F. Ewins, Blodgett, Mo.

—Prosecuting Attorney Moore took a peep at the "sights and things" in the Newsboy office Monday.

—First-class baled Timothy Hay for sale. Apply to Mrs. SUSAN GAITHER, Commerce, Mo.

CHARLEY OWENS

Charged with Murdering His Wife and Niece and then Firing the House.

"Don't Care if I Do"

Was Owens' Impudent Reply When Asked to Take a Last Look at the Charred Remains in the Coffin.

After the bodies had been placed in the coffin for burial, Owens was asked if he wanted to take a last look at them. "Don't care if I do," he nonchalantly remarked. He went out, took a glance at the remains and sadly walked away, showing no concern whatever while the mother and sister of his dead wife were frantic from grief. The wife's maiden name was Nannie Reedy, and was about 23 years of age. Owens appears to be about 30, and is the son of Alfred Owens. (The burial then took place but Owens did not attend.)

The bottom of one of his feet is somewhat blistered, also his face. He does not talk about the matter unless questioned.

The coroner's jury held Owens responsible for the crime, and he was brought to Benton jail by Constable English Monday evening.

Owens has never been able to explain how or why it was that his wife awoke him and then failed to get out of the burning building herself. He and his wife did not get along well, and on several occasions, separated. It was proven that he repeatedly threatened to kill her. Owens is a bad character and this is not the first time he has been within the clutches of the law. He hailed from Commercial Point, Ill.

THE PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

The preliminary trial having been set for Thursday, before Squire Watts, Constable English arrived Wednesday evening. Thursday morning the constable left with the prisoner for Diehlstadt, with a Newaway reporter close after him.

Prosecuting Attorney Moore was on the ground by 10 o'clock but inquirers with witnesses occupied his time until 1 o'clock at which hour the preliminary examination began. The case was conducted for the prisoner by Thos. B. Dodge, who proved himself a very efficient attorney. The verdict of the coroner's jury was put in evidence after a second draft thereof had been prepared, and the first witness—F. A. Richey—was called. His testimony was in effect as follows:

That he was called up by Owens shortly after midnight on the 26th ult. That Owens told him his wife and niece were in the house, and Owens called to him saying, "It is no use, they are dead." Owens a light box house, such as are usually around saw mills, and was soon in ashes.

After calling Richey, Owens did not return to the burning building, nor did he appear to have any concern about the matter. He went to his father's house near by and went to bed. Mr. Richey was the only man about the scene until after daylight the next morning.

When the news reached Diehlstadt the next day, foul play was at once suspected. A warrant was issued and Owens was arrested at his father's house, by Constable English, about 4 o'clock in the evening. During all this time Owens never returned to where his wife and niece lay in ashes. The niece, Ruth Seward, was seven years old and was the child of his wife's sister—consequently no blood relation to him.

THE INQUEST.

A coroner's jury was summoned and an inquest held by Squire Watts. Owens was put on the stand and stated as follows:

"I was asleep. My wife called to me that the house was on fire. I told her to get out, that I would take Ruth. My wife and I were occupying one bed, and Ruth was sleeping in a bed across from us. I jumped on the floor, but it was so hot it burnt my feet and I jumped on Ruth's bed. Then I run out."

"Why didn't you carry the child out?"

"Don't know; I guess I was scared and never thought of it."

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Diagram of room, showing position of beds. Owens stated that he attempted to cut into the house with an axe, but this was offset by Richey, who testified that he found the axe by the door, just where he had noticed it the evening before. Owens frequently contradicted himself, and his entire testimony went to ashes in the face of the fact that, when found, the child was lying under her aunt, with her head toward the foot of the bed, while Mrs. Owens lay with her head toward the head—both in the family bed. Charred remnants of bed covers were found over them, and beneath them was straw that had not burnt showing that they were in bed and under cover when burnt. Near the foot of the bed was found a hammer, which was usually kept behind the door. Also two wedges.