

**Country Correspondence.**

**CASTLETON.**

Uncle Johnny Glick has returned from the Strip and reports lots of people, dust and beer to drink. His chances are about one in sixteen but they are as good as the next fellows.

The dance at the hall was a happy success in spite of the threatened rain. Miss Mary Purcell has been working at Mrs. Glick's in the absence of Uncle John.

Austin Pricer was a visitor at Pretty Prairie Saturday.

Geo. Nicholson commenced to cut fodder last week.

Lou Drolte is disking his ground instead of plowing it as usual.

Jamey Seigelvenders has left the county probably never to return. His many friends bid him a fond adieu. He did not mention his destination as he does not know it himself.

Geo. Glick is missing, probably kidnapped? A suitable reward will be given to the one who discovers the abductors.

School marms are thick as bees, the roads being lined with them.

Miss Kena Edick has recovered from a serious illness, a gathering in the car. She has been ailing for some time past, but is cured without a doubt. Thanks to the services of Dr. Clark.

The Woodman ice cream social was given Saturday evening.

We are glad to note that so many of our young people have secured good schools for the coming year. Among the noteworthy ones might be mentioned Miss Ruby Zimmerman and Miss Margaret Emory.

Business is brisk in the metropolis.

**Pretty Prairie.**

Thrashing is going on in fine shape.

Miss Julia Baker has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Long for the past week. Miss Baker is one of our leading teachers and expects to teach this winter.

Jamey Henry is digging a well, hoping to strike a large flow of water.

Corn is ready to cut and is very light this year.

Dick Lackey built a granary on his place near Lerado, to hold his wheat for better prices. It is presumed that the old gentleman will also build a house and bring his wife from town and spend their declining days in ease and comfort.

C. M. Bay is going to put out another monster wheat crop, having out 1100 acres last year.

Mr. Barton has finished thrashing his wheat crop.

Royal Daffern has deserted the standards of General Funston, and is working for the Winfrey thresher company.

Jimmie McClellan and Bennie Mercer were doing business in town Saturday and Sunday.

Ben Schisler is the guest of Mr. Mercer.

Dave Shreder is wanting to thresh, but threshers are scarce.

Oscar Fields and his gang is at work on Mr. Rosses place. Clem. Mercer is plowing wheat land on Sec. 3.

Mr. Geo. Drolte is going to disk his wheat in again.

Mr. Miller is stacking his bound grain. He is assisted by Bob Herry.

The Strippites are returning home to mother and friends.

**School Notes.**

School officers are flooding the county superintendent's office with inquiries concerning the qualifications of teachers. This is a good sign.

If the "Cynic Observer" will come to the office of the county superintendent and examine the records he will find that "the ax has fallen."

The majority of the districts have hired their teachers.

Prof. J. H. Jackson has cancelled his engagement at St. John for Normal work in August. He will devote his time to the interests of the N. N. C.

Miss Willard is visiting her uncle in McPherson county this week.

Those who raise fruits and vegetables for the market find it to their advantage to develop varieties adapted to the market.

This does not necessarily mean those which are best in flavor, says an authority. A tomato, no matter how delicious, that becomes "mushy" under a few hours' shaking in a freight car, is unprofitable, except for local markets. The railroads have made the range of supplies for every region so wide that the first requisite of any perishable article is that it shall be a "good shipper." Scientific agriculturists are now bending their energies toward securing, by cross-breeding, a combination of delicacy of flavor and of good traveling quality. They have already accomplished much. Every year some new fruit or vegetable enters the general markets, and better varieties of the old are introduced. In these times not only the palate but the eye must be satisfied. Celery must be white, strawberries must be red, and an apple attractive in color. Any new variety, however excellent, that does not come up to these standards cannot expect a wide market. Then nature puts "trade-marks" upon certain varieties, and so greatly aids their commercial success. The "navel" is one of several kinds of seedless oranges, but it is so distinctly marked as to have acquired almost a monopoly of the field.

In a recent article by Dr. Andrews, of Philadelphia, who has seen 2,900 deaths, that physician says: "I have found that persons of clean life, of honorable, upright, religious character, not only do not display an indifference to the approach of death as those of grosser life do, but welcome it as a relief from care and toil. There is something about the approach of death that reconciles men to it. The senses are dulled, the perceptive faculties are blunted and the end comes quietly, painlessly, like a gentle sleep. In this condition—I mean on the approach of death—those who retain their faculties to any degree become more or less philosophers. They know that death is inevitable, that it is only a question of hours, and they accept the verdict without any demonstration and in a philosophical way. In all my experience I have never found a case in which a dying man or woman complained against the inevitable, attempted to fight its approach or even feared it. It is only in good health that we fear death. When we have become ill, when we have sustained some injury of a very serious nature, the fear of death seems to disappear."

There was a novel combat the other day at an Illinois high school. The lady sophomores desired to wear the school colors, and the lady juniors said they shouldn't—so there! Whereupon they came to blows—or rather to the scratch—and striugs and buttons flew, and hair came down, and tender faces were sadly marred, and even delicate shins were fiercely kicked. They chased one another all over the campus, and only gave up the struggle when exhausted. And the lady sophomores, as they pinned themselves up, hotly declared that the victory was theirs, and the lady juniors, as they vaselined their scars, were equally certain that the sophomores had been ingloriously routed. No wonder, observes the Cleveland Plain Dealer, that a timid college professor advised the young men of his classes to beware of the educated girl.

To the ordinary observer there does not seem any relationship between old maids and canary birds. But the Philadelphia Record shows that there is: "The demand for canary birds is regulated by the supply of old maids," said a Ninth street bird dealer recently. "When the old maid market is strong we sell lots of canaries. Men hate 'em. I don't know why they should, but they do. Consequently married women seldom indulge in canaries. Of course there are exceptions, but most of the women who buy birds are old maids. They now seem to fancy the canary even above the cat and the parrot. It used to be that every old maid had either a cat or a parrot, perhaps both, but now the little yellow fellow has the call. The more old maids there are, the better it is for the canary market."

The following unique letter has been received by the Philadelphia Record: "If my wife writ any stuff to you in regard to a young Ladie in your city do not writ her up in yuer paper as the ladie will bring slander and damages against the Reckerd if you do as there no need of my wife being fious of that Ladie as that young Ladie is all right and a perfect Ladie."

A certain married woman who "glories in her sex" confesses that there are times when she envies her husband. With a business suit and a dress suit, she says, he is "prepared for any occasion," and to choose such conventional clothing costs him hardly a moment's thought; whereas with every changing season she must completely rearrange her wardrobe, not the gowns alone, but the "gewgaws to match." The older she grows, the woman says, the more heavily does this burden weigh upon her spirit. Although she is not a society woman, says Youth's Companion, she meets many people; it seems a duty to array herself in the manner that the general judgment of her sex approves, and to do this demands time, money and anxious meditation. She admits that she likes to feel well dressed. Yet what a relief it would be, she adds, if, like the sisters belonging to religious orders, women would put on uniforms and make no change except, say, from thick garments to thinner! At first thought this seems a reasonable proposition. It would be so if applied to the other sex; for man already pays an esthetic penalty for his efforts to save himself trouble in choosing his clothing. Members of secret societies evade the penalty for an hour or two when they decorate themselves with sashes and swords and feathers; but every other assemblage of men is necessarily a somber and cheerless spectacle. The members of any such gathering are clad so uniformly that one might logically demand they put on uniforms. Happily woman's instinct permits her to be more original. Probably the only reason why one particular woman suggests a uniform is that some penurious man has charged that she and her sisters sinfully waste their time and money on dress. But that is not true of many American women. For one family broken up by the wife's extravagance, a hundred are ruined by the husband's folly. Moreover, the woman who takes pains to show herself at her best does a good deed, since she adds just so much more to the charm of life.

Runaway marriages are becoming so common that it is interesting to recall a stern parent of Philadelphia who refused to ever again see his only child, a daughter, who had offended him in this manner. Years passed, and the time came for his death without having brought to him any softening toward the girl. As he was a man of great wealth, considerable curiosity was felt to know whether she would be mentioned in his will or whether in death, as in life, she was disinherited. After many and generous bequests to charity the following clause in the will was read: "I give, bequeath and devise to my daughter, Jane, the sum of five dollars, in order that she may purchase some strongly-written tract on filial obedience."

Morristown, N. J., has a Justice of the peace who acts promptly and energetically, and has the courage of his convictions. A wife complained to him that her husband deserted her three years ago, and that four of her six children had died of starvation meantime, but that she now had located the husband in Morristown, where he had been living for six months with another woman. The Justice had the husband arrested, took the keys of his house from him, put the woman out, and installed the wife in the domicile with her two remaining children, telling her to use it as if it were her own, and not to fear, as he would protect her. If not legally right, the Justice was morally so, and his action will be generally commended.

The agricultural department is sending to experimental florists a plant that is a wonderful novelty. It has been named the artillery plant, it grows to a height of 12 or 15 inches and is covered with pale red buds. They do not blossom. When a shower comes or water is poured on them, by the moisture, the buds swell rapidly and explode loudly and a tiny ring of smoke rises. When a large plant, covered with hundreds of buds, is sprinkled, they all explode simultaneously and a considerable cloud of smoke can be seen.

In the bottom of a strawberry box opened at Hutchinson, Kan., the other day this was found written: "I am Cora Marsh, aged 16, of Logan, Mo. Never been kissed."

Comparisons are odious, most particularly when they are accurate.

A recent decision by the supreme court of the United States concerning "Queer Bank- preferences in bankruptcy is causing something like consternation among merchants. The bankruptcy act forbids preferences to creditors, requiring any creditor who has been preferred to surrender what he has received if he proposes to prove any claims or receive any dividends. By the recent decision it is established that the receipt of money by a creditor within four months of the time when a petition in bankruptcy is filed by or against the person making the payment, constitutes a preference. Thus, if A sells to B a bill of goods amounting to \$2,000, and is paid in cash, and thereupon sells him another bill of goods for \$4,000 on 90 days' credit, within which time B goes into bankruptcy, A becomes a preferred creditor. If he proposes to claim his \$4,000, he must give up his \$2,000. If he wants to keep his \$2,000, he must give up his \$4,000. The fact that he had no intention of obtaining a preference, or that his debtor had no intention of giving him one, is immaterial; the law presumes the intention from the mere fact of payment. It is suggested that business men should bestir themselves to have congress amend the law so as to lessen, if not completely do away with, the severity of this provision.

Of course, rich men have a right to do as they please with their money, and can select their own beneficiaries. Those who contribute to the cause of education do wisely and well. But would it not be wiser and better, suggests the Buffalo Times, if some of this vast amount of money were expended in establishing kindergartens and playgrounds for the children of the poor, instead of lavishing it all upon the "higher education" of the sons of the rich?

One of the officials of the Philadelphia mint says: "There is always a scarcity of pennies in the west and a superabundance of them in the east. Every little while the banks out there set up a hoot and cry for pennies, but our banks here are ever glad to rid themselves of their surplusage in these coins. It is difficult to see why such a state of things should be."

Judge Jenks, of the New York supreme court, told the law school of New York university the other day that "the man with furrows in his brow wins against the man with creases in his trousers every time."

A new word incorporated in the English language, especially in exposition literature, is "pergola," which is defined as "an arched colonnade."

The small boy's imagination seems to have been excited by the reports of the magnificence of the Pan-American exposition. Youngsters are running away all over the country, and the police in many cities have been kept busy looking for juvenile tourists who are needed at home. It would probably be a good thing for most of these boys to carry out their plans. They would receive a great many hard knocks and endure some privations, and the experience would in many cases operate as a permanent cure for the runaway fever. But it would be difficult to convince the parents of this.

That was a smart Michigan woman who, when her husband filed suit for divorce against her, went to her man's and had a notice of her own death inserted in the newspapers. The husband's affections revived, and instead of attending the funeral of his wife, he found her—and his mother-in-law—in the flesh, awaiting him with open arms. The telegrams add that the delighted husband hugged his wife fondly, omitting all reference to his mother-in-law, who was, beyond doubt, the suggester of the little game.

One of the American consuls in Italy has discovered that the finest kind of macaroni produced in that country is made from American wheat, which excels for this particular purpose the wheat of every other country. The importance of the macaroni industry is hardly appreciated in the United States, but it really amounts to a great deal and means a new and big market for our wheat.

Once there was much made of the idea that a subtreasury should be established at every crossroads. It came to nothing, but a Wisconsin congressman proposes to start steam laundries at points convenient to farmers' wives. Power, it is said, could easily be supplied in connection with the numerous creameries and cheese factories.



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Long-range weather prediction has yet to show that it is of the slightest value. Probably the June just ended has been in the Mississippi valley the hottest on record. Yet it followed an unusually late spring. The heated spell dropped down without an intimation of any kind. On Sunday, June 16, the maximum temperature suddenly soared up to 95.5, and there have been but three days since with a maximum of less than 96. The average maximum since the middle of the month has been 95.57. Last year, for the same half month, the average maximum was 83. Perhaps this indicates a hot summer, and perhaps it doesn't. Nobody but the charlatan pretends to know anything about it.

There is one form of wealth which is distinctly reprehensible, the kind that distributes big tips along the summer routes of travel. It is done for display. The man who has made a strike wants to show off, and his way of doing it is with five-dollar gold pieces, or nummiference of that common sort. The extravagance simply demoralizes waiters. It is no good to the hotels or restaurants, and it makes everybody else who has not five-dollar gratuities to distribute less comfortable.

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