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Springfield Republic EVENING AND WEEKLY.

The REPUBLIC prints the New York and Western Associated Press Dispatches and the Reader Cable (Foreign Telegrams).

C. M. NICHOLS, THOS. G. BROWN, President, Sec. and Treas.

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THE-REPUBLIC AND SPRINGFIELD'S ROOM.

Thursday's mammoth edition of the Republic has created a profound impression in local circles. It exceeded all expectations and surprised, very pleasantly, our people. It reached the highest water mark of Springfield journalism.

We wish to congratulate the Springfield Republic on the big edition it issued yesterday, containing a carefully prepared and ably written sketch of Springfield's business condition and outlook.

The editor appreciates the kind things said of him, in our contemporaries, for whatever else he may be, he believes that he is at least a man who takes pleasure in saying that the real credit of the plan and execution of this mammoth edition of the Republic belongs to our editorial associate, Mr. THOMAS G. BROWN, secretary and treasurer of the Springfield Publishing Company, and business manager of the Republic, who has shown first-class journalistic qualities, especially in a business way, since he formed a connection with this paper.

The citizens of Springfield may rest assured that the Republic will at all times -now and henceforth- give special attention to the promotion of the business interests of Springfield. That will be one of our specialties, and we feel confident of our ability to do justice to the merits, public spirit and progressiveness of the town.

THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING IN ASSURED FACT.

It is with feelings of profound satisfaction that we announce the fact that the members of the Second Presbyterian church of this city, have formally and unanimously accepted the generous offer of Mr. Benj. H. Warder, of \$12,000 for their parsonage lot, on the southwest corner of High and Spring streets, that he might erect upon it and the adjoining lot a public library, which, when completed, will be donated, with the ground, to the city on the condition that it be used as a public library building.

Mr. Warder is not only a man of noble and generous spirit, but also a man of high ability and high character. He has a public mind, and his ideas, planned an institution which will be diffusing an influence for good - an educating, an inspiring and an uplifting influence - upon the people of this city, for all time to come.

The building will occupy the parsonage lot and the old "John S. Harrison" lot, west of it, the two having a frontage of 100 feet and a depth, on Spring, of 150 feet; it will be built of stone, in the Romanesque style of architecture, and a number of the leading architects of the country will be encouraged to prepare and submit plans, so that Mr. Warder can select from them and secure the very best possible result.

The building will contain accommodations for the library of the present and of the future; and for a commodious reading-room, and on the walls of the reading-room may be hung oil paintings, and no doubt, there will be niches in various places of the building, for statuary, so that, to some extent, it may become virtually an art gallery, but not to such an extent as to preclude the desirability and possibility of the erection of an art building by itself, by some gentleman of taste and public spirit, corresponding with his wealth, whenever he may desire to do so.

With the government building, the Warder free library building and the splendid new city hall and market building all in process of building in the same season, the people of Springfield will be pretty comfortable, thank you, in this year of Grace, 1887.

We are told that the unavailing of Keller in the capital of the nation, May 12, is likely to be a great occasion - Cincinnati's most important fact.

THE ART OF BREATHING.

There are a great many people in this country who do not know how to breathe, and, therefore, they do not breathe. They allow it to breathe itself, in a sort of ineffective way, and, as men must breathe to live, they lose their strength gradually, and die before they ought to and need to.

There is no portion of the body that can be more easily and successfully cultivated than the chest. Our rapid, driving business men haven't time to breathe properly - and many other persons - both men and women - are too lazy to do it.

There is nothing nearer the actual, demonstrated truth than the assertion that all human chests, in a normal condition, can be developed and strengthened by proper care and judicious exercise. Another fact is that lungs already diseased, may be saved if taken in hand and properly treated - not by the use of patent medicines, but by the free employment of fresh, pure air, forced into all portions of the breathing apparatus, continuously and habitually, and by the exertion of the person, in whose chest it is, to keep himself erect, and to give his lungs ample room and opportunity to do their work well and thoroughly.

One, by cultivating his chest and increasing its power, increases the power of the entire body. The putting of the chest in a proper condition, promotes physical and mental comfort, alertness and courage; it therefore promotes digestion and greatly assists all proper natural processes; that is to say, promotes the general health and physical strength.

This is a matter that should command the attention of all parents and teachers. All children should be taught to breathe and intelligently assisted in one of the most vitally important of bodily functions. Nothing can be of more physical benefit to a child than wise and efficient instruction in methods of chest development, for the lungs are the seat of life, and from them come the first processes which sustain vitality.

When they do their work well, without hindrance or obstruction of any sort, it is usually true that the heart, the liver, the stomach, the kidneys, and, better than all, the brain, are strengthened and encouraged to do good and perfect work. But if one is lazy and half-hearted in breathing, if he stoops and contracts his chest, and oppresses and deforms of their birth right, his lungs, instead of encouraging them, he may be sure that his neglect will be resented and punished. Especially in our schools, seminaries and colleges should young people be taught as to the structure and functions of their lungs, and how to breathe; for proper breathing is hardly a natural gift; it has become an art and one of the most useful and health giving of acquirements.

RIGHT AND DUTY.

The right of the individual to exercise his private judgment needs to be often asserted and constantly and stoutly maintained. It is especially an American privilege. It is ours because we have fought for it, and having secured it, have utilized it. Men universally concede it in theory, because, in the circumstances, they are forced to do it, but they almost universally dispute it when other men's judgments do not coincide with their own.

Wars of opinion have been many and fierce in this country, and although changes have been gradual and, perhaps, infrequent, there have been growth and development as the result of these contests and the people of the country have climbed up on to higher ground, and into purer and clearer atmosphere. All men cannot believe as any one man believes; no one man can believe as all other men believe. But all men can discuss their beliefs and differences, and the man who cannot learn something from almost any sort of a discussion, is not very much of a man, mentally or morally.

But the exercise of rights involves the imposition of duties. We have rights; therefore we have responsibilities, and these involve duties. We have the right to form our opinions, but the obligation to examine and to think is forced upon us. We have no right to believe anything unless we have good reasons for believing it; we must know why we believe it, and if the thing believed is important to others as well as ourselves, we ought to qualify ourselves, if possible, to convince others of the truth which we have come to accept as a plank in our platform of faith, whether it is political or religious. The American citizen should think, systematically and continuously; he should reflect; he should study and investigate; he should discriminate and sift, and he should do this for himself, for he is held responsible for the proper use of his great trust. He may seek information from others, from what may seem to him to be the most intelligent and trustworthy sources, but this information must be scrutinized, its sources considered, and all its bearings weighed.

It is proper and right that men should be asked to give reasons for the faith that is in them; that is, they should be able to show that it is a reasonable faith. These reasons need not be elaborate or profound; the simpler and more concise they can be made the better. Personal testimony as to the

THE RETURN OF THE BIRDS.

The man who does not enjoy the happiness of birds, or love to study their habits, may be placed in the same category with him who loves not the "consort of sweet sounds." He is only fit for "treasons, stratagems and spoils." Indeed, it is doubtful whether the man who has no affection for his animal creation is fit to be trusted with any of the grave responsibilities of human life.

The return of the birds, those graceful harbingers of spring, is a perennial theme for writers of poetry and prose. But it is somewhat commonplace and practical aspect of this theme to which we here call attention.

Several years ago we resolved to try what could be done toward inducing the voluntary settlement on our premises of the more interesting birds of this locality. Observations were made on the fact that what is needed to secure such a settlement of our local birds is not only facilities for nest-building and immunity from molestation, but also a seemingly slight matter, often overlooked in this connection, namely, accessibility to fresh, pure water. The receptacle for this water must not be too deep, and those which we secured were made of wood or slate of heavy limestone, chamfered at the top, with sloping sides which would graduate the depth of water to suit small as well as larger birds.

It is not only drinking facilities which the birds require, but also an appropriate and necessarily secluded place to bathe. During the heated term there is scarcely a half hour during the entire day in which there are not from one to three birds bathing in the stone troughs. It requires but a moment each day to replenish these receptacles with fresh water, and it is probably due as much to these facilities as to any other, that our attempts to induce these birds to settle on the premises have been so successful. It leads to the reflection that during a protracted summer drought, as well as during animals, doubtless often suffer severely, merely for the lack of pure water.

The English sparrows, like the poor, we have always with us, and they therefore cannot be classed among the returning birds of spring. Like the hummer's mother-in-law, they make two visits a year and stay six months each time. Their nagging cries, originally developed, it is said, among local birds to their premises, were of English, and it is probably due as much to these facilities as to any other, that our attempts to induce these birds to settle on the premises have been so successful.

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The next comes, on about the 10th of April, were the martins, for whom facilities were provided over three years ago. The martin-house which we have is a somewhat historic one, being the same which for time immemorial stood at the "old Uncle Billy" street corner, on west Main street, and which for decades of years had been annually inhabited by these birds. It was, it must be confessed, a matter of curiosity to see whether the martins of this house would return to the city would draw the birds thither. The experiment was a success, and now with the utmost regularity, on about the date above named, these birds make their appearance, one of the most enthusiastic promoters of the interests of these martins, or swallows, as they are often called, is Mr. Alphonso Farrell, of our city, who has devoted great care and study to their habits, and provides bountifully for their accommodation. From that time to the present the young birds at our respective houses are hatched out, the families of martins from the two places invariably have a house-warming, or bird-christening, during which great interchange of courtesies and congratulations prevail, we have about come to the conclusion that the birds of the two places are blood relations.

The departure of the martins at the close of the summer season is no less interesting than their advent in the spring. This has probably been noticed by many persons in the great congregation of these birds at the Kelly Arcade corner previous to their departure in the fall. For a few days immediately preceding such departure, there seems to be a general understanding among them that a farewell jubilee is to be held at the arcade or postoffice corner. At this time all local martin houses are deserted by their occupants, and for several days previous to departure they seem to revel in a grand social time on the telegraph wires, and roof and eaves of the postoffice building. Certainly no one forgets the commotion at that point last fall when the gathering to departure they seem to revel in a grand social time on the telegraph wires, and roof and eaves of the postoffice building. Certainly no one forgets the commotion at that point last fall when the gathering to departure they seem to revel in a grand social time on the telegraph wires, and roof and eaves of the postoffice building.

Next came the blue birds with their modest, pathetic warble and subdued, but attractive plumage. They were found prospecting for a building place, and were soon accommodated with an object which has been found to be the most suitable for their nesting purposes by the birds; namely, a hollow piece of wood, about a foot long with a side hole bored in the same, and in the top and bottom of the hollowed wood closed. In fact, it is nothing more or less than a wooden pump spout, closed at each end, and wired to a crotch in the tree, the opening in the side serving as a doorway.

But our most interesting visitors have yet to come, and we are looking for them with great interest and anxiety. They are a family of English creepers, a bird apparently little known in this region, and about which very little can be ascertained in ordinary books on ornithology. The English creeper is a little gray bird, scarcely larger than the largest species of humming-bird, with bright, head, large eye and a long, pointed bill. They maintain their safety from the enmity of the English sparrows by virtue of their diminutive size, whereby they can creep into the aperture or doorway of their nest, and through which their enemies cannot follow them. The first thing they did on our premises was to close the aperture of the pump-spout house to the smallest possible dimensions. Two years ago a single pair of these birds settled on the place. They, with their young, returned last year, both hatched broods and then left. The personal interest of the observer is enhanced by the fact not only of their smallness, but of their restlessness, as they will come very near the quiet observer. They run up and down the bark of a tree with agility, peering here and there for insects, and are altogether a very interesting study. But best of all, the English creeper is a beautiful and almost constant singer. He is the first note heard in the morning and almost the last at night, and considering the volume of sound and continuousness with which the little creeper sings, it is marvelous that such a tiny bird and anatomy can possibly keep it up at such a rate.

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