

THEN AND NOW  
BEING A  
HISTORY OF DWIGHT, ILLINOIS,  
From 1853 to 1908.

By Fred B. Hargreaves.

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PREFACE.

When I decided to write another history of Dwight, I intended to follow the method of the first edition and fill it up with the record of local happenings, and I had plenty of available matter for this purpose. Upon further consideration I decided to adopt an entirely different style; one which seemed to me to be more appropriate and dignified. I determined to let the first part of the book stand as a record of early doings, but the second part should be purely historical. It is the duty of the impartial historian to point out the mistakes which have been made, to comment on the conditions as they are presented to his notice. He is not called upon to record names or even to follow dates in their chronological order, but he is expected to be truthful and unbiased. It was in this spirit that I undertook the work and it is in this spirit of truth and fairness that I have completed it.

I came to Dwight in 1873 and lived here for many years during some of the exciting periods of its history, and hence I have a personal knowledge of many of the matters discussed in the later chapters of this book. Although, for several years past, I have resided elsewhere I have kept more or less in touch with the place and latterly have spent most of my time here on account of business interests which still bind me to the town. I hope these pages will be read in the same spirit in which they were written and, as they offer many suggestions which will lead to further thought on the part of the reader, that the result will be a quickening of

the civic spirit and a broadening out along all lines which conduce to the public good.  
FREDERICK B. HARGREAVES. Evanston, Illinois, January, 1908.

# THEN.

## CHAPTER. I.

Each man's life is a history. From the moment he enters to the moment he leaves this world his words and actions form a complete record of his existence. Each man's history differs from his neighbor's, and while one is eventful, interesting and attractive, another will be commonplace and dull. And yet the most ordinary life will contain chapters of general interest to mankind at large, while the whole will be thoroughly appreciated by all who knew the man of whom they intimately speak.

It is just the same in reference to a town or locality. One city can "point with pride" to the fact that some of earth's greatest ones were born in its midst; another can tell of princely benevolence, and many places bear the record of martial deeds of fame. The history of these places would form a narrative full of interest to the general reader; but throughout the length and breadth of our country there are hundreds and thousands of places which have no such record, and yet the simple story of their comparatively uneventful life will have an attraction for all who have been acquainted with their existence.

In this western country, however, there is scarcely a place which has not been the scene of some event peculiarly attractive, and often romantic. Settled from different parts of the world, it is not strange that a small town or scattered settlement is replete with thrilling stories; the only wonder is that some one has not long since made use of them, and given them to the reading world. If the historian could get behind the scenes and ascertain the facts in the lives of our early settlers, he would have material for a book which would rival the fanciful productions of many of our best writers, for, as the poet has tersely expressed it, "Truth is stranger than fiction."

We have often met with men who "settled out West" in the early pioneer days and have heard from them accounts of their early experiences. They have told of their difficulties, dangers, privations and sufferings, and the narratives have been more interesting than any fiction could possibly be, for they dealt with actual life, and the great facts and truths of life. Those of us who have read the works of the great historians of the past have not only been pleased with the eloquent language and graphic descriptions of those authors, but the knowledge that the records were true statements of facts made an irresistible [sic.] impression on the mind. The production of a fertile imagination on the foundation of a little truth may win

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a smile from a few, but the true record of a man's, a town's or a nation's history will find a place in the hearts and minds of men.

When this work was first projected it was thought by many to be simply a fancy, there being nothing which could be put into historical form. Not a few were inclined to laugh at a small town like this being capable of furnishing any material worthy general perusal. It will be readily perceived, however, by the well-informed and intelligent reader that no matter how small a place may be it must of necessity have a local record which will be at least of local interest. And then it must be borne in mind that the great story of the human passions, of love and hate and greed and graft is everywhere the same.

We never thought that Dwight could furnish a history which would be of national importance, for it is well known that most Western villages have a similar experience in their up-building, and that a comparatively simple one. But in this respect our town stands out a little from its fellows, and while we have much in common with our neighbors, we have some things to record which they have not.

In writing this book the object has not been to fill its pages with unnecessary details, nor yet with superfluous language. We have always endeavored to tell plainly the exact facts. In the case, trusting that a discriminating public will readily see the advantage of this course.

## CHAPTER II.

In this age of progression when commerce is conducted on such a gigantic scale and with such rapidity of transaction, the average reader does not care to be bored with a lengthy production on any subject. The author of those well known words, "Brevity is the soul of wit," was no doubt fully cognizant of this fact. The demand of the age is for short sermons, short newspaper articles, short books, short stories, and, indeed, brevity in all communications from one man to another. We have borne this in mind, and now lay before the public a complete and comprehensive, yet concise history of Dwight.

In 1874 we first planned and wrote a history of this town. It was not a very ambitious effort. We called that book, "Dwight, Past, Present and Future," and while we do not pretend that it was the best record which the town could have, it was the best it had had up to that time, for it was the first and only one. The difficulty of getting the matter together will not easily be understood by the general reader. The early history of the town was locked up in the minds and memories of its early settlers, and it became necessary to interview many of these in order to ascertain the events which occurred during the first years of the town's existence.

"If you go to Mr. So-and-So", said one, "he will tell you all about it. He was one of the first residents here, and has a wonderful memory." Mr. So-and-So was accordingly button-holed, and after a patient investigation it was discovered "that he had been here so many years, there were so many buildings here when he came, it was prairie all around, and--and--well, he could not remember anything particular; but if you go to Mr. ---, he can tell you all you want to know." The interviewing of early settlers, the examination of documents and records and the many other plans followed to

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obtain information made it extremely difficult to ferret out the actual facts which we here place before our readers. But if the work has had its difficulties, it has also had its pleasures.

"All the world's a stage", said Shakespeare, and when the actors on this part of earth's stage pass away, we hope the future historian may speak kindly of us, not because we are gone, but for the simple yet grander reason that our good deeds live after the doer is dead. The rising generation will here be able to learn how their predecessors braved dangers and fought the hard battle of life when they commenced to build up our town. And should any of them ever move "farther West", knowing what has been done here will encourage them to greater energy and perseverance in the home of their choice.

Looking back over the past we find that many of the early pioneers who had but little of this world's substance yet were happy and content with their lot, have passed away to another world. We stand in their place, we inherit the fruits of their labors, and we trust the lives we are living and the deeds we are doing, not for ourselves alone but also for our town and country, may be such as will benefit our common humanity.

In the preparation of this new edition of the history of Dwight we have used much of the material of the one we published in 1874, making some few minor changes, but practically reprinting the first edition, carrying the narrative forward to the present time.

Since our first edition was printed an alleged "History of Dwight" has appeared on the market. It contained a great deal of reading matter and quite a number of pictures. The main part of this work, that relating to the early history of the town, was taken bodily, verbatim et literatim, from our work, "Dwight, Past, Present and Future". It was certainly very generous of the compilers of this later work to use the product of our brains so freely and without giving us any credit, but the trick has been played upon us before. As we have already said, we spent much time and lots of hard work in getting this information together, and we do not appreciate the trick. But if the ingenious, enterprising and grabbing "compilers" had not used our matter they could not have gotten out a history at all, so they availed themselves of our work. But it would have been more decent if they had given us credit for it and not pretended that it was their own work. It is gratifying, however, to know that no one has been able to improve upon our efforts in this direction, and that our record, as published in 1874, is the authority and standard for today. So far, so good.

In completing this history we have endeavored to make it truly historical. In relating the earlier steps of progress made by the village it was necessary to go into details of daily life--in fact, there was little else to narrate. But when the village reached its majority it is fair to assume that it had something to say for itself as a village--what it had done, what it had accomplished along certain lines. Hence it is no longer necessary to fill up the pages with the startling information usually given in local histories. It may be very interesting to know when some one's house was burglarized, or when a sociable was given, or when some one moved in or moved out, but it does not make up the real "history" of the village--it is the record of personal doings only.

We have

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at hand a mass of information of this character but have refrained from using it, as we do not think it has any place in this work. Such matters are generally fully recorded in the press and any one can get the Dwight Sun and keep fully posted on the daily happenings in the village and county. By saving up his files he can have a complete record of such matters, but they are out of place in the book we are writing. We know that such matter has been used by others but there were two reasons for this. First, they wanted to please the people whose names were mentioned, in the hope that the families would buy the book. Second, they did not have anything else to say and had no knowledge of how to write up the subject in proper style.

After relating the early life of the village, giving many interesting details of people and events, we have assumed that the village had something to say for itself, and so we shall discuss the subject from the standpoint of social life, morals, education, religion and commerce. A faithful portrayal of what has been done and is being done in these different departments shows the progress which Dwight has made as a village and gives to it that importance and standing in the country which is its due. We think our readers will appreciate this plan and will acknowledge that it offers the most accurate and adequate record of the village of Dwight.

This is the history of a town, pure and simple. Where it is necessary to mention men and their lives in carrying out this plan, it will be done, but we are inclined to believe that quite a number of our citizens will be disappointed at not finding their names recorded here. But the portrayal of the social, moral, educational, religious and industrial life of the village will make ample amends for the omission of the names of those who have no real claim to mention in a work of this kind.

We intend to make another departure from the usual order. It is our purpose to publish a number of local advertisements in the body of the book. We know this is not usual, and the average reader may think it strange that he comes across an advertisement every now and then in his reading.

But there is a "good and valid reason" why this should be done. In the publication of a work of this character the price must be made low in order to give it a wide circulation, and this can not be done with any profit to the author. We have decided to publish this history at thirty-five cents, which will leave no adequate remuneration for the work and time bestowed upon it. The advertiser helps this out and enables the reader to purchase this work at a nominal price. So that both author and reader are distinctly benefited by this new departure and we feel sure that it will be fully recognized.

We aim to give the reader a complete history of Dwight as we understand it, and to give it in a readable form, believing that this will make it of permanent value to all and a worthy representation of our village.

### CHAPTER III.

One of the most remarkable feature in our Western civilization, is the rapidity with which the country has been settled, towns laid out and cities built. To the eye of the foreign tourist these indications of national pro-

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gress have a decidedly new appearance; but when he becomes acquainted with the settled life, established laws and customs, and busy activity of a Western town it seems almost incredible that twenty-five years ago no town existed, or even had the prospect of a being. So rapid has been the growth of our prosperity that it seems but a short time since the first settlers left their Eastern homes, and braved the unknown dangers of "the far West."

At that early day the land now covered by the town of Dwight was part of a beautiful and extensive prairie. The Indian no longer claimed it as a "hunting ground," for the settler's team had appeared, and the hardy adventurer had driven his stakes and taken up his abode. The long prairie grass waved in the wind; the summer came, followed by the hard and bitter winter, and but two or three families had moved into this section of country. At that period the prospect was anything but inviting.

In addition to the usual hardships attendant upon establishing a home in a new country, there were many dangers to be encountered; and it very frequently happened that the pioneers had to endure great privations. Looking back to that early day, some of these same settlers say that the prospect of a busy, thriving town,

with all the advantages which we possess at the present time, seemed but an idle dream, never to become a living reality.

But the iron road and the iron horse of George Stephenson were destined to alter not only the face of the country, but also its social position and material wealth. It was about this time that James C. Spencer, and T. C. Myer drove through this country surveying the present railroad from Chicago to St. Louis. For seven days they had to camp out in this immediate neighborhood, and during the journey Mr. Spencer had his legs so severely frozen, that at one time it was feared amputation would be necessary. But their efforts were ultimately crowned with success and in the summer of 1854, the first engine passed over the road. Mr. A. West helped to wood up that engine when it stopped here, and we find that it was appropriately named after the enterprising James C. Spencer.

At that time the town consisted of two small shanties and a tank for the engines. One of these shanties had been occupied by a man named Stevens who butchered for the men working on the railroad, and the other had been occupied by a man named Morgan who boarded them. It was not long before some one built a small shanty for the accommodation of travelers, and while we may be sure that the accommodation was crude, we may be equally sure that it was highly acceptable to all who needed it.

That winter was one easily remembered on account of its intense cold and protracted length. A great storm burst over the country and snow fell till it covered the land two feet deep; the thermometer for a period of six weeks averaged from 25 to 30 deg. below freezing point; and the few residents in this locality felt the bitter weather in all its severity. Many farmers in the surrounding neighborhood lost their cattle, and thus they were cramped and hindered at the very commencement of their pioneer life. The snow was on the ground till May when the farmers went to planting corn; but by this time other families were moving into the settlement,

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and it soon became evident that a village was about to be formed here. At this period the prairie was infested more or less with wolves, and when the settler looked out of his door in the clear bright morning light he could often see large herds of deer pasturing not far from his little homestead. The locality now known as the town of Dwight was then a precinct, and it was not till the 21st day of January, 1855, that the plats were laid out and the town in which we live and which many here have learned to love, was created.

The first sign of a town was indicated by the elevation of a telegraph pole with an inverted tin pale nailed on the top. This served as a landmark and a guide to the surveyors engaged in surveying the Chicago and Mississippi railroad, (now the C. & A. road). When the first few houses were built here, the neighboring farmers and residents styled the incipient village "Western New York;" but that name was soon destined to pass out of sight and give place to a better one. We have never been able to ascertain why the town was not named after its founder and the original proprietor of the land, R. P. Morgan, Jr., unless it was that Mr. Morgan was too generous to name it after himself.

Henry Dwight, Jr., of New York, was a brother engineer of R. P. Morgan's; he came out West and embarked and lost his then large fortune in the construction of the railroad. He was a man of enterprise and great public spirit, and it was in his honor and to commemorate his deeds that R. P. Morgan gave his name to the town in which we live.

It was on the 6th of August, 1853, that Mr. Morgan deeded the right of way to the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad Company through the present site of Dwight, and other lands; reserving by covenant that "should he lay off the former tract, the present site of the town, into town lots, to make safe and suitable crossings wherever the lines on said road intersects the streets that may be laid out on said road." And in consideration of the right of way granted, the Company covenanted to "erect and keep up station houses and other necessary depot buildings," where they now stand, on the North east Quarter of Section Nine, Town Thirty, North, Range Seven, East of Third Principal Meridian.

In the fall of 1853 Mr. Morgan caused the original town plat to be surveyed, and on the 30th of January, 1854, formally dedicated and recorded it in the following words: "To be known as the town of Dwight, and the streets and alleys described on the plat are hereby donated to the public."

On the first of August, 1854, the railroad was opened through from St. Louis to Chicago, and it has since been in operation, excepting the period of snow blockade in the winters of 1855-6.

The village thus established was destined to grow. The sanguine expectations of promoters are not always crowned with success; but it was evident from the first that Dwight was going to be a village of some

pretensions. Gradually it settled up, first one and then another finding a home within its boundaries. Mr. A. West, of this town, to whom we have referred before, claimed to have put up the first permanent residence on the town plat, and also claimed to be the "oldest inhabitant." He watched his child from its infancy upward, and not ashamed of it in its prosperous manhood.

It was not long before the popula-

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tion began to increase in another way, and in January, 1855, the first child was born here. Time passed quickly away, and the people were busy improving the town, and others kept moving in.

A few stores were in operation and one hotel invited the attention of weary and hungering humanity. In neighborhoods contiguous to Dwight coal was found, and after years saw towns spring up which owed their existence and sustenance to the coal beds. But here it was different. As it is today, so it was then, farmers and their produce were the support of the town. Our existence, then, did not depend upon the development of a coal vein or the sinking of shafts. The more rapidly the surrounding country filled up the more rapidly must the town grow.

It is not surprising therefore that when the Prince of Wales visited the neighborhood in 1860, but a few years after the formation of the town, it was a thriving village of about 400 inhabitants, and having about one hundred buildings. The reporters of that period who communicated information to the New York papers were gifted men, and spoke in high praise of the town, its surroundings and its inhabitants. We are not surprised at this, for we have always noticed that when a man speaks well of us, he is an intelligent and gifted man.

The year 1854 was a memorable one in our history; for with it came some of the most prominent men who have resided here. It was in this year that John Conant emigrated from Rochester, Ohio, bringing with him the lady later so well known as "Grandmother Conant," and two sons, George T. and Henry F. Conant. The latter son died here Sept. 22, 1858. Mr. Conant was a man of facts, a strong total abstinence man and a Congregationalist. He served that body as Clerk for thirteen years in the church to which he belonged. He was an officer in the war of 1812, and belonged to the same regiment as Grandfather Rockwell, but was not detailed for service, yet he helped the soldiers on their way to Boston. In politics he was a strong Republican; but like every right minded and honorable man, he always regarded the rights of others as sacred as his own. The following brief personnel of Mr. Conant we take from a sketch of Sabbath School Organization by David McWilliams: "Father Conant was a man of large physical frame, weighing I should suppose at least 240 pounds, a large well proportioned man in all respects, possessed of more than ordinary talent, with a large share of good common sense entering into all his plans. Plain as to his appearance and with the modesty and diffidence of a bashful lad, it was always very embarrassing for him to preside on any public occasion and for this reason declined to act as our first Sunday School Superintendent. He was our first Postmaster, first Justice of the Peace, and a man whose well balanced life was such as to command the respect and veneration of all that knew him. He was a man well adapted for a new country; his parents having been pioneers in the western part of Massachusetts when he was a mere lad, and when arriving at manhood emigrated to the wilds of Ohio, which was a vast wilderness at that time, and then when in the decline of life came to this new country and helped to mould its institutions."

One of Mr. Conant's daughters had married Mr. Cutler, who resided in

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this neighborhood. She is now in France with her son, I. Martin Tracy, who has made a national reputation as an artist.

The cholera made its appearance this year, and was anything but a welcome guest. One young man died, and a man who kept a shanty grocery moved to the Dutch settlement, where it is said he died also. Mr. Colgate was taken with it, but Mr. Cutler took him to his house and attended to him, so that he afterwards recovered. Mr. Cutler had had experience in this department when he was Steward in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Columbus, Ohio. The panic created by the advent of the cholera passed away, how-ever, and the next death was that of Mrs. Alex. Guerly; she was buried in the Dutch settlement.

It was in this year, too, that Major McDowell came to this town from Hollidaysburg, Pa. He had resided in that city for some time, where he had successfully carried on the banking business. He purchased several thousand acres of land in this vicinity, and became one of our most prominent and active citizens. He was a

man of large heart and generous nature.

When the country was visited with that ever memorable snow storm, which blocked up the traffic on the railroad between this place and Odell, some hundred and fifty passengers were brought to this town for shelter and sustenance. Provisions were low at the time, and the town was composed of only a few buildings. There was the station house, John Campbell had a small eating house, Mr. West had a house, there was a small house where Dr. Hagerty's family lived, a small boarding house for railroad hands, and a grocery shanty with two families living in it; these composed the town of Dwight. Major McDowell promptly despatched [sic.] his team to the town and took a number of the ladies into his house, where he entertained them, and made them comfortable during the terrible storm, The town was fast running out of provisions and famine stared them in the face; but the storm abating a little, word was sent to Morris, and the good people of that town sent two sleigh loads of provisions to the aid of the people.

'Squire McIlduff came from Cassville, Pa., to this town in the same year as Major McDowell, and claims to have plowed the first furrow in Dwight. He also drove the first stock to this town. He afterwards built a small house on his farm.

The following year Hiram Cornell bought out John Campbell's eating house, and built the first hotel in this town, known as "The Dwight House." David McWilliams built his store in the same year. It was painted white, and when the farmers, coming from a distance caught sight of the white building, they made tracks accordingly. The first article of merchandise sold by Mr. McWilliams, in Dwight, was a shilling lawn dress, which was given to the station mistress by a then prominent citizen. That store served also as a place of worship, a shelter for new comers until they "pitched their tents," and, in fact, as a house of refuge in those early times.

In the fall of 1855 Dr. Hagerty came to this town. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1852, and was a physician of high order. He practiced here until 1863, from which time till his death on September 1, 1873, he acted as consulting physician only. The Doctor was a man of cultivated and refined tastes, and helped

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largely to build up the present educational system in Dwight. In the early days of his practice he had calls from all parts of the county and was in general request.

Prairie fires were frequent at this period, and many persons lost property, some nearly lost their lives. Nelson Cornell was out hunting one day on the east side of the town and when returning saw an immense prairie fire approaching. In order to save his life he burnt the grass in the place where he was and stood on the hot ground while the larger fire swept past him, nearly suffocating him with smoke and ashes.

#### CHAPTER IV.

The first Sunday School was organized in April, 1855. John Conant was elected superintendent, but refused to serve. John Routzeng was elected in his place.

The first appointment for a religious meeting in Dwight was in the house of Nelson Cornell. A few people gathered but no preacher put in his appearance. Those who attended meeting at that time did so either at the log school house on the Mason creek, or at Eber Stevens' barn. Local preachers or exhorters supplied the congregations.

The first public religious services held in this town were in an unfinished building on Lot 17 Block 6. It was used before the building was really finished, and thirty-seven persons attended the first school service on May 15, 1855. The following are all of the names of those present that we can now ascertain: D.

McWilliams, Sec'y; John Conant, Mrs. Conant, Samuel Cutler, Mrs. Cutler, Henry Conant, Miss Meltina Earl, Henry and George Cutler, Robert Thompson and several members of his family, Jno. Routzeng, Simeon Lutz, J. Travis, Augustus West, N. E. Lyman, Ashley Bentley. The first sermon actually preached in the town was preached over the store of D. McWilliams on the second Sunday in June, 1855, by the Rev. A. D. Field, of the Rock River Conference. While here that gentleman formed the first religious society in the town; it was composed of six members.

The first school house was 16x24. It was put up in the fall of 1855, at a cost of \$275. It was afterwards purchased by Lewis Armstrong. For nearly three years it did duty as a school house, a church and a public

hall.

The first postmaster in this town was John Conant. He kept the office at the residence of Mr. Lutz, on the corner Northeast of the Methodist Church. He only held the office about three months. When D. McWilliams opened his store Mr. Conant resigned and D. McWilliams was appointed. Mr. McWilliams made out the first quarterly [sic.] report, which is quite curious and interesting to us at the present day. The whole amount due the U. S. Government was about \$6. The amount has increased since then. Mr. McWilliams held the office nearly two years. He was a supporter of John C. Fremont, and in the campaign of 1856 a supporter of Buchanan was appointed. The new postmaster's name was Palmer. He kept a small store. He only held the position, however, a short time, as he did not know any one in the neighborhood, and was really unfit for the work. A few months afterwards, in 1857, Dr. Hagerty was appointed to the office which he successfully retained until 1866.

The first Supervisor was Isaac Mott.

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The first Justice of the Peace was John Conant, the first Constables were B. Losee and W. H. Ketcham. W. H. Ketcham was also the first Collector.

The first School Teacher was Sarah A. Snyder.

In 1857 the township received an accession in the person of C. Roadnight, Esq., popularly known as "Sir Charles." He was an Englishman of education and means and undertook to farm his extensive tract south of the town on English principles. He kept a private Secretary at that time, who was no less a person than A. U. G. Banyon, later an energetic and summary Police Justice in Chicago. Mr. Roadnight built a substantial residence and good outbuildings, but his farming did not prove to be a success. He was the General Freight Agent of the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad, a position which he held for many years.

In the year 1858 the land for a grist mill was donated by R. P. Morgan, and the citizens subscribed the money to erect and furnish the building. The machinery was put in by Messrs. Case and Bradbury, and the mill was completed and in operation in the following year.

In this year (1858) considerable excitement was caused by an effort on the part of some citizens to change the name of our town. There was a leading politician here named Tom Little, known more familiarly as "Jersey." He and some others (who formed a clique which he led), tried to have the name changed to "Beekman," the name of a county in New York State. R. P. Morgan and his party worked for the name of "Dwight," whilst a third party toiled in behalf of the euphonious appellation "Dogtown." The excitement, we are told, was intense, and R. P. Morgan's party were ultimately successful, winning their point by a single vote.

In this year Captain Joseph Rockwell took up his residence here. He was a native of Connecticut, but emigrated here from Ohio. His occupation was that of a wagon maker. He made the first wagon that was ever made in Dwight. The wood work for that wagon was worth from \$25 to \$30. He also made the first loom in Dwight, and his wife used it. At that time there was very little specie, and a great deal of trading was done by barter. When a cow strayed away from "the town" and got half a mile or a mile away, it seemed as though the pursuer was out of the reach of civilization.

In 1859 a circumstance occurred which materially affected the interests of the town. For a period of several weeks it was cut off from all mail matter and from all communication with the outside world, except by way of Morris. The cause of this is to be found in the famous quarrel which existed at that time between Governor Mattison under his lease of the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad, and Hamilton Spencer and the bond holders of the same road. The difficulty at first appeared to be a serious one, and all traffic was suspended during the time above indicated. The difficulty ended by the road passing into the hands of the bond holders, an event which largely conduced to the welfare and prosperity of Dwight.

The chronicle brings us to the year 1860, a year which will long live in the recollection of those who were here at that time. That year was remarkable for nothing, as far as we can learn, except the visit of the Prince of Wales. The theory of the divine right of kings has long since been exploded,

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and is now thrown aside by all intelligent people. Yet if the theory has gone, one of the practices which it involved remains. There seems to be a natural craving in the minds of many to see a Royal personage, even if



it be only a second cousin. The strangest part of it is, that such a desire should be manifested in our own country, the acknowledged land of independence, the home of republican thought and feeling. It is true, however, that our countrymen and women especially have a great reverence for foreign nobility. The story papers and the light literature of the period teem with illustrations of this fact; and the visit of the Prince of Wales and later of Duke Alexis confirms the statement.

That this state of things exists is not surprising, but it is sad. It would seem that if a tribute of praise or meed of honor is due to any man, it is to him who has wrought noble deeds for his country; it is to that man who, laying aside all selfish ambition and worldly fame, devotes his faculties, his energies, his life to the welfare of our common humanity. But it appears that, nowadays, title, position and wealth have a greater attraction for the popular mind; and while David Livingston and Captain Hall are comparatively forgotten, the merchant prince and senatorial banker bask in the sunshine of popular favor.

During his progress through our country the Prince of Wales met with an enthusiastic reception. His visit to this neighborhood was expected and the residence of James C. Spencer was prepared for his visit. The usual household furniture was taken away, and special furniture sent ahead by the Prince's party, supplied its place. A crowd of citizens gathered on the edge of the railroad opposite Mr. Spencer's residence, and waited for the Prince's arrival. It is mournful to be compelled to state that no triumphal arch had been reared; no town band was there with pleasant music, no leading citizen to present an address of welcome to the youthful scion of royalty. But if all this was missing, it was amply compensated by a few remarks made by a citizen of Pontiac, a village not unknown to local fame.

Mr. Spencer went down to the railroad and requested the people to move off, as the Prince did not want a public reception. The citizen before mentioned did not make a very lengthy reply, but in language more forcible than classical he recommended Mr. Spencer to emigrate to a land, the climate of which is said to be much warmer than that of Illinois. It was not much of a speech certainly but it was eminently characteristic of the country, the times and the man. About twentyseven minutes after six P. M. on September 22, 1860, the Prince of Wales arrived at this town. He was at once escorted to the residence of James C. Spencer, where he remained during his stay here. He came to this neighborhood for the purpose of shooting, and he had not been many minutes at the farm before he called loudly for his gun, and announced his intention of having some sport that evening. He only shot one bird, a little screech owl, and that was enough for the time being. The next day was Sunday, when the Prince and his suite attended Divine services at the Presbyterian church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. P. D. Young. The Prince was much pleased with the service and in consequence he made a donation to the church. The next day the party, numbering some twelve or fourteen gen

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tlemen, commenced shooting in downright earnest. One day they shot from the train, and had such success that over two hundred quails and chickens were bagged. The Prince was then nineteen years old, and had a good appearance. He was looking remarkably well, and enjoyed excellent health. His spirits were always good and his manner uniformly genial. He was very much pleased with our country and expressed himself eminently satisfied with his visit to Dwight. His stay was short; he came on Saturday and went away on Wednesday.

The last day he was here he planted an elm tree on Mr. Spencer's farm, and it has now grown to large proportions. Mr. P. E. Miller was living on the farm at the time of the Prince's visit and communicated many items of information to us. The period of his stay, though short, has its anecdotes. The first night one of the principal attendants on his Royal Highness made an unpleasant and uncalled for remark to Mr. Miller. That gentleman turned round quickly and said, "If you'll mind your business, I'll mind mine." The next morning the matter was all settled and each man knew his place.

It is also related how the unfortunate Mr. Roadnight drove up one day in rattling style and sitting in his vehicle called, "Ho, there!" No reply was vouchsafed to the challenge; and, when it had been unsuccessfully repeated, the irate Englishman put the whip to his horse and told the Prince to "go" somewhere, but history does not state positively the place of Mr. Roadnight's choice. Mr. Miller says that the party, behaved themselves with great decorum during their stay, and as the town is also reported to have done the same, we may safely congratulate ourselves on having entertained the heir to the throne of England, and now its King, with satisfaction and credit.

## CHAPTER V.

To be smitten with the curse of war is the greatest calamity that can befall a country. If it is the result of a governmental aggressive policy, it is fraught with international dangers and inevitably brings national loss - when, however, it is a quarrel between two sections of the same government; when it is a manifest attempt to make one part of the country rule at the expense of the other; then the civilized world beholds the most fearful spectacle which warfare can present, even the terrible and heartrending spectacle of fratricidal strife. It is well known that politics and political sentiments have such an effect on the minds of men, as to cause many to lose sight of the nobler influences which actuate our being. And in this great country which boasts of such unrivalled tracts of territory it is perfectly natural that the people should be distinguished by such names as Northerners and Southerners. But when we come to consider that a great difference existed between these two in thought, feeling, social law and commercial enterprise, it is not to be wondered at that the harmony of Union was roughly shattered in the way it was.

Without entering into any lengthy [sic.] discussion of this subject we may safely say that according to the old state of things, Union could never have been successfully maintained. But in the present aspect of affairs, with the new and grander policy adopted, with the feeling of hearty sympathy which is

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rapidly gaining ground, we see a noble, a splendid future, not only for the South, but for the United States of America.

Although the difficulties existing between the Northern and Southern States had been rankling for years; and although it was evident to the farseeing statesman that war must necessarily follow, yet when the storm burst upon us in all its fury, the North was comparatively unprepared for it.

But if we were not in such thorough readiness as we might have been, one thing is certain, we had men enough, and men of the right stamp, too, to fight the battles of "Union" and "Freedom." When it became known, therefore, that the South had rebelled, and that the government was in need of recruits, the men from Northern cities, towns, villages and even farms laid down the implements of industry and took up the deadly weapons of war.

Contemplating that eventful period in our national history, the mind is filled with many ideas of a painful character. Now that the flush of victory and the bitterness of defeat have become things of the past, we may calmly and dispassionately consider one of the many phases of that terrible war.

One of the most awful thoughts in connection with the subject, is that the hand of brother was raised against brother, father against son, and neighbor against neighbor. As we remember that all the pleasant and beautiful feelings connected with happy social life were rudely dashed aside, and the tenderest and holiest ties which bind us together in brotherly love were fiercely broken, it brings before us a scene of fearful horror and profoundest woe.

But while we mourn over the awful character and natural consequence of the Rebellion, we have reason to be grateful for its happy results. There can be no doubt that war was necessary under the circumstances, and there can be no doubt that it was necessary for this great country to purge itself of the curse of slavery, and show itself to the civilized world as the great, the glorious, the free Republic of United America.

At the very commencement of the war the town of Dwight took a lively interest in the national proceedings. Our town has always been Republican and loyal, and in the hour of the Government's need our citizens came boldly to the front at the call of duty.

While many were thus willing to give up all for their country and fight, not a few were equally willing to give up all to their country rather than fight. Humorous stories are related of some of our citizens who resorted to various methods in order to escape the horrors of war.

But during this period, however, a large amount of enthusiasm was developed here, as in many other places as well; and in the year 1862 the interest and excitement which prevailed in the town, took a definite form, when some of our citizens cheerfully gave up the pleasures of home and nobly consecrated themselves to the service of their country. In the summer of this year Company B was organized, under the call of President Lincoln for six hundred thousand men, at Dwight, Livingston C., Ill., by Samuel T. Walkley, and was mustered into the service of the United States, at Pontiac, Ill., on September 8, 1862, forming a part of the 129th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

It must not be supposed that this Company contained all the men who

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went from Dwight. Some enlisted in other regiments, and fought bravely for their country. But as Company B was the only Volunteer Company organized here, it is with that one this history has to deal.

A correct list of the names of the officers and privates, with an account of what became of each man, has never yet been published.

The task of preparing such a list for publication has, however, now been successfully accomplished; and as it forms a most important and interesting part of the history of our town, we here present it to the reader:

Company "B" 129th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Regimental and Staff Officers.

Henry Case, Colonel.

A. J. Cropsey, Lieutenant Colonel.

Thomas H. Flynn, Major.

Darius Johnson, 1st Ass't Surgeon.

Wm. H. Walters, 2nd Asst Surgeon.

Thomas Cotton, Chaplain.

John McWilliams, Quarter Master.

Phil. D. Plattenburg, Adjutant.

Commissioned Officers.

Samuel T. Walkley, Captain.

George W. Gilchrist, 1st Lieutenant.

Elihu Chilcott, 2nd Lieutenant.

NonCommissioned. - Sergeants.

Homer A. Kenyon, 1st, assigned to duty in Inspector General's Department 3rd Div. 2nd Corp. - Returned.

William E. Swift, 2nd, discharged, Jan. 1. 1863.

Northrup Riggs, 3d, promoted to 2nd Sergeant. - Returned.

Leander B. Morgan, 4th, discharged Jan. 29, 1863.

Francis M. Angle, 5th, killed March 19, 1864, at Averysboro, N. C.

Corporals.

Peter Garten, 1st. Returned.

William R. Snyder, 2nd. Returned.

Daniel W. Gallup, 3rd. Returned.

August Becker, 4th. Returned.

John N. Staley, 5th. Wounded in right breast July 20, 1864, before Atlanta.

Samuel Persels, 6th. Discharged March 2, 1863.

John O. Collister, 7th. Died at Fountain Head, Tenn., Jan. 8, 1863.

Charles G. Atwood, 8th. Died at Gallatin Feb. 6, 1863.

Musicians.

William A. Randall, Fifer. Discharged April 26, 1863.

Charles M. Rawlings, Drummer. Captured in N. C., and was afterward exchanged as a prisoner of war.

NonCommissioned.

(List at the close of the War.)

Sergeants.

Homer A. Kenyon, 1st. Returned.

Northrup Riggs, 2nd. Returned.

Francis M. Angle, 3rd. Killed.  
Peter Garten, 4th. Returned.  
William R. Snyder, 5th. Returned.

#### Corporals.

Daniel W. Gallup, 1st. Returned.  
Samuel McGooden, 2nd. Returned.  
Henry Vanderburg, 3rd. Shot in leg, which was amputated. Died at Vining Station, Ga., July 20, 1864.  
August Becker, 4th. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
John N. Staley, 5th. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Charles A. Gwin, 6th. Wounded at Resaca, Georgia.  
Joseph D. McDonald, 7th. Returned.  
James Wilgus, 8th. Returned.

#### Musicians.

Charles M. Rawlings. Drummer. Returned.

#### Privates.

Austin, Rufus H. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Bintenburger, Ludwig. Deserted October 6, 1862.

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Borin, William H. Discharged March 13, 1863.  
Broadbent, Joshua A. Discharged Feb. 16, 1863.  
Bochtler, Joseph. Wounded.  
Beach, John F. Deserted from Nashville, Tenn.  
Butler, Charles S. Mounted Scout. Wounded in right knee in front of Atlanta.  
Barry, Martin. Returned.  
Broughton, James. Died at Mitchellsville, Tenn., Dec. 8.  
Bennett, Edward C. Returned.  
Borer, Fidel. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Bradbury, Wm. H. Chief Clerk in Gen. Judah's Headquarters, Dec. 3, 1862. Returned.  
Brandenburger, Rudolph. Lost left arm July 20, 1864, in front of Atlanta.  
Caldwell, William I. Discharged March 16, 1863.  
Currier, Lewis. Returned.  
Cann, John. Mounted Scout. Lost right arm July 20, 1864, in front of Atlanta.  
Charles, William. Discharged March 11, 1863.  
Dick, Anton. Discharged March 19, 1863.  
Fuller, Richard. Hospital Cook. Discharged from General Hospital.  
Flaherty, Thomas. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Flynn, John. Returned.  
Fullerton, John. Mounted Scout. Wounded.  
Fuge, Patrick. Severely wounded in the thigh, March 19, 1864, at Averysboro, N. C.  
Griswold, David M. Discharged April 26, 1863.  
Gwin, Charles A. Promoted to 6th Corporal.  
Gray, Samuel S. S. Died at Bowling Green, Ky., Nov. 30, 1863.  
Hoffman, William. Killed June 15, 1864.  
Hand, Ira W. Mounted Scout. Wounded in right thigh at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain.  
Huntley, Asil. Returned.  
Hally, Benjamin W. Discharged on account of sickness.  
Judd, Curtis J. Promoted to Sergeant-Major.  
Ketcham, John L. Mounted Scout. Wounded June 15, 1864. Died in General Hospital at Chatanooga, Tenn., June 26, 1864.

Koehnlein, Charles. Regimental Carpenter. Returned.  
Lore, Robert C. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Lower, Eli L. Returned.  
Legnor, John. Discharged May 9, 1863.  
Lewis, Henry A. Wounded in right leg July 20, 1864, before Atlanta.  
McWilliams, John. Discharged and appointed Quartermaster.  
McFee, Henry L. Appointed Wagon-Master Feb. 4, 1863. Discharged.  
McKenney, Edwin. Mounted Scout. Discharged.  
McGooden, Samuel. Promoted 2nd Corporal.  
McDonald, Joseph D. Promoted 7th Corporal.  
McCartney, William. Returned.  
Mihm, Albert. Wounded in head.  
Miller, Conrad. Deserted Oct. 6, 1862.  
Morrison, David. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Nielson, Peter I. Returned.  
Pfefferman, Stormens. Returned.  
Pratt, James R. Mounted Scout. Discharged.  
Pratt, William H. Discharged June 2, 1863.  
Rawlings, Thomas E. Transferred to Telegraph Corps.

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Reinmoller, Carl. Returned.  
Randall, Jerry. Wounded on June 22, 1864, and subsequently died.  
Rogers, John H. Discharged March 13, 1863.  
Reed, George W. Mounted Scout. Captured, and exchanged as prisoner of war.  
Randall, George W. Died at Gallatin, Tenn., Feb. 21, 1863.  
Sullivan, John. Deserted Sept. 25, 1862.  
Stevens, Eugene R. Discharged from Gallatin, Tenn.  
Schneider, Ludwig. Discharged March 2, 1863.  
Saddler, Nicholas. Returned.  
Shepherd, James. Discharged March 13, 1863.  
Schumm, John G. Mounted Scout. Returned.  
Smith, Manning. Returned.  
Shrimpton, Eber. Wounded March 19, 1864, at Averysboro, N. C.  
Stahl, August. Mounted Scout. Killed June 15, 1864.  
Sanford, Israel J. Colonel's orderly Sept. 8, 1862, and subsequently discharged.  
Vandenburgh, Henry. Promoted 3rd Corporal.  
Wykes, Charles. Mounted Scout. Died in Hospital at Nashville, Tenn.  
West, Wareham E. Returned.  
Wilgus, James. Promoted 8th Corporal.

The history of this company during the war is full of interest, and if our space would permit we would willingly give a detailed account of their wanderings; but as in many other instances, we are compelled to condense our information, we only give a brief resume of their adventures.

After being mustered in at Pontiac, Ill., on September 8th, 1862, they proceeded by rail to Jeffersonville, Ind., and then crossed the Ohio River to Louisville, Ky. From there they marched to Shelbyville, Ky., still marching toward Frankfort, Ky., which was reached on October 8th.

On October 11th the march was again continued, and on the 13th the small town of Rough-and-Ready was reached. October 17th they camped at Danville, after a march of twenty miles. The next point was Harrisport; from thence to Crab Orchard, back to Danville, thence on to Perrysville, and at last, after a weary march they reached Lebanon. A few days at this point, when they were ordered to Bowling Green, and then marched on to Mitchellsville, Tenn., where they remained some time.

The occupation of the soldiers until February 2d, 1863, was guard and camp duty, foraging, skirmishing, etc.

On February 2d they camped at South Tunnel, two miles north of Gallatin, Tenn. The next move was to Richland, from whence the whole regiment marched to Fort Thomas, which was reached on June 22d. Nothing of interest occurred until August 21st, when they marched to Nashville, where they remained, with occasional changes, till February 24th, 1864, when at 8 o'clock in the morning they, in company with several other regiments, marched to Lavergne, a station on the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad. From thence they marched to Murfreesboro, Tenn. February 29th they left Murfreesboro and marched to Shelbyville, thence to Tullahoma, on to Orchard station, then Andrew station, passed through Stevenson, still on the march to Bridgeport, thence to Belleville, thence to Whiteside station and finally reached the Lookout Valley on March 10th, after passing through immense hollows and passes.

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On May 2d they received marching orders again, and at once proceeded to the front.

On May 15th fighting began in real earnest in the neighborhood of Buzzard Roost, and the men began to face and to feel the stern realities of war.

At Resaca they won their first laurels by nobly advancing on one of the enemy's forts under a murderous fire. Urged on by their general, the line broken, they threw themselves on the enemy, and in a few moments dislodged them.

The victory was grand, not, however, without great loss. The regimental flag was riddled by seventy-five bullets, and the bearer was shot in the hand, and afterwards killed. The next fight occurred on May 19th at Cassville, where, after a brief struggle a victory was obtained.

On May 25th the terrible battle at Dallas or Burnt Hickory commenced. It was not, however, till the 29th that the engagement became general. The enemy was defeated.

On the 2d of June marching was recommenced, and on the 13th Big Shanty station was captured. From this time fighting was the order of the day, the enemy being gradually driven back.

On July 20th another bloody battle was fought and victory gained at Peach Tree Creek.

On July 22d the regiment arrived within 1-1/2 miles of Atlanta. The bombardment of this city was now commenced. After a good deal of hard fighting the enemy evacuated the city, and on September 1st, 1864, the Union troops took possession of it.

On September 16th marching was again resumed, and early in the morning they reached their former entrenchments before Atlanta, where they encamped.

On October 1st they marched to the Chattahoochee River, where tents were pitched, log houses built and breastworks formed.

On October 27th a mock election was held, when Lincoln received a large majority, the number being 286 for Lincoln, 31 for McClellan and 1 for Joe Hooker.

On November 13th marching was again resumed, and after a long, tedious and wearisome march, they arrived in front of Savannah.

On December 21st, after some hard fighting, this city was taken amid great rejoicing.

On January 29th the march through South Carolina was commenced.

On February 6th Columbia, the capital of Georgia, was reached, and taken on the following day.

On the 18th the march was again resumed, and after passing over a long stretch of country, the enemy was met at Averysboro, where some fighting and winning was done as usual.

The march was continued to Goldsboro, near which place they were allowed to remain and rest, after a most difficult and arduous march of five hundred miles.

April 11th, found them once more on the march, and at Smithfield heard the news of Lee's surrender at the Appomatox Court House.

April 17th the rumor, afterwards confirmed, of President Lincoln's assassination, was current. The first news caused indescribable joy, the second, indescribable sorrow.

April 28th, orders were given to prepare to go North, and on the 30th, marching was accordingly commenced.

On May 24th, after a rapid and somewhat tiresome march, Washing

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ton was reached, and the men began to feel themselves at home once more.

On June 7th, after a service of two years and nine months, all but a day, they were duly mustered out of the United States Service by Captain Beecher, Mustering Officer of the Division.

June 11th, Chicago was reached. Here they were paid off after a little waiting, and taking the friendly cars, at last gave up the tedious, toilsome marchings, and soon arrived at home.

Not all who went forth returned again; some alas! were laid low and this world knew them no more; others in hospital mourned the loss of limb or health.

But as long as the great Republic lives; as long as Illinois maintains her loyal love of Union; so long will the glorious 129th be remembered, and their deeds enshrined in historic memory.

We have thus placed upon historical record not only the names of Company B, but also a brief sketch of their marches, deeds and sufferings whilst they were absent from home.

Such a chronicle, however brief, is replete with interest, and we doubt not, will touch a tender chord in many a heart, kindle feelings and waken memories that have lain dormant for years.

While their soldier brethren were thus away fighting the battles of our country, the enthusiasm at home was almost indescribable. The citizens as a rule felt themselves called upon to do something, and if they could not go to the war in person, they could at least help those who had devotedly sacrificed comfort, friends and life in the cause of their common country. The feeling developed itself in the organization of societies of different kinds. In 1863 we find a number of men gathered together in this town under the name of "The Union League." It was a political organization, "having political objects in view, yet at the same time, dispensing charity according to its means. In this neighborhood it numbered over 200 members, and over 1000 in the county. There can be no doubt that the influence this society exerted over the people was immense. They helped to carry the elections; they worked ably in behalf of Republicanism, and indeed acted as a sort of Home Guard while their brethren fought on the distant battle field.

In the same year we find another society organized here, of a different character. It was composed of ladies, and was called "The Ladies' Loyal League." It was established on June 5, 1863, in H. Eldredge's house over his store. The parties who organized this effective band of laborers were S. T. K. Prime, S. Cutler and J. G. Strong. The object of the society was to raise funds for hospital and sanitary purposes. The ladies met once in every two weeks for the space of two years, and during that time accomplished a large amount of good. Their first purchase was that of a cow, which was sent to the hospital at Springfield for the benefit of the wounded soldiers there.

The next step was to make weekly consignments of butter and vegetables to the same hospital.

In the course of their labors this society raised over \$700. Many means were resorted to; tableaux were performed, oyster suppers were given, and each attempt to raise money was cheerfully responded to by the enthusiastic citizens.

At no period of our history as a

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town have we enjoyed so much harmony and prosperity as during the period of which we are writing.

The people seemed to be of one mind; popular thought and feeling ran in one direction, and our town, always loyal, was, at this exciting and crucial period, devoted to the best interests of our country.

It must not be supposed that Company B of the 129th, contained all the soldiers who went from Dwight, though it held most of those who went from here. There were many others, however, in other companies of the same regiment as well as in other regiments.

## CHAPTER VI.

If the present age is the most wonderful era in the history of the world, it may be said with equal truth that the past few years have been the most eventful and important in the history of Dwight. And yet the progress which this town has made has been largely consequent on the general progress of the world.

The age is a progressive one. Art, science, literature, manufacture, everything has approached a degree of perfection hitherto unknown in the world.

Whatever the "Lost Arts" may be, and to whatever state of civilization the ancients attained, there can be no doubt that this present age is the most wonderful one in the history of the world.

One of the most important and gigantic features of our modern civilization and progress, is the improved means of transit, locomotion, and communication between one point and another.

The ancients, it is true, had ships, but yet they knew comparatively nothing of the art of navigation. It was left to this age to perfect the grandest feats of science and skill; it was left to a Morse to give the world telegraphs, to George Stephenson to give us railroads, to the inveterate genius of modern times it was left to bestow upon mankind the invaluable blessings which accrue from progressive scientific research. Steam, in its various applications, may be regarded as one of the grandest triumphs of scientific skill. Today it brings distant cities and towns near to us; yea, it brings far off countries nearer to our own by its almost magical power.

And yet when the scheme of a railroad was first projected by George Stephenson, it was laughed to scorn by the wise men of that generation. Some who read this book, will doubtless remember how a member of Parliament thought to overturn the whole scheme by asking the inventor what would happen if a Cow should get on the track before the engine. The inventor quietly replied, "It would be very bad for the cow!" The people of that period did not seem able to realize the fact that in a few years England, and other European countries would be intersected with iron roads. Much less were they able to comprehend the greater fact, that in a comparatively short space of time the vast continent of America would have its railroads with improved engines and cars, enabling the traveler to leave the shores of the roaring Atlantic one week and gaze on the bosom of the placid Pacific the next. And yet this has all come to pass, and now this great country is in possession of some of the largest and fin-

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est railroads to be found in the whole world.

What is the result? Increased facility of communication! An efficient means of carrying goods between two or more important points! These are among the least advantages railroads have given to this country. Let the mind of the reader go back thirty or forty years, when Illinois was "the Far West" and a vast expanse of country, fraught with dangers and difficulties, lay beyond. What has filled Ohio, Illinois and other states, with thousands of prosperous towns and villages? It is the grand application of steam to the purposes of locomotion; it is the iron road and the iron horse, it is the developed creation of George Stephenson's brain that has opened up the states of our beloved Union and brought forth industry, commerce, wealth and national power.

When, fifty years ago the road from Chicago to St. Louis was built, it was foreseen that the intervening country would be rapidly settled up. Step by step the settler made his way; step by step he built up the location of his choice, and today as the morning traveler lounging in the luxurious drawing room car, passes from Chicago to St. Louis, he sees everywhere the evidences of progressive civilization and developed industry.

Among the many towns which sprung up along this line of road was the little village of Dwight. How it struggled and toiled for a permanent and prosperous existence, how its inhabitants suffered and wrought in its early days we have already told. But when the cloud of war had passed away, and the country settled down once more to steady, active work, Dwight began to be more prosperous, and on the goodly foundation which had been laid was reared the structure of our present social and commercial life. The year 1868 was one of importance to this place, because it was in this year that the first newspaper was published here.

It has been said that a town has no history till it gets a newspaper. It is true, however, that a town has no recorded history before a paper is published there.

Journalism in the West has grown with the development of the country. As soon as circumstances would warrant it, newspapers were started in the various towns, and, we may say, with various results.

Not every editor is successful. Now and again a man of ability will toil on against adverse circumstances and succeed in establishing a permanent business, while a large number of his "brothers" will fail in enterprise. The first newspaper published in Dwight made its appearance on May 5th, 1868, and was called "The Star." Like every newly discovered star it created a great sensation. In a few weeks it was quite a popular sheet, and every one was on the qui vive, anxious to glean news and gather the "chips," and watch the "ripples" which came from this unpretending sheet.

On June 5th, 1868, another literary candidate appeared in the field under the name of the "Dwight Weekly Courier."

At the time this paper appeared it created quite a sensation, but it was only transient for, after a chequered



existence, it quietly passed away, and was lost to sight forever. The "Star" of the day went into appropriate mourning on the occasion, but its sorrow we fear, was like that of a fash-

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ionable funeral, more ostentatious than real.

This year passed away without any occurrence of special note. There were the usual accidents, incidents and transactions of every day life.

Dwight was quiet and prosperous, moving on calmly in the even tenor of its way.

In the following year, 1869, work was commenced on the Western Division of the C. & A. railroad. It was pushed forward vigorously, and in 1870 it was ready for business.

The most notable event of this year was the great fire on Mazon avenue. The following account is taken from the Dwight Star of the next week: About fifteen minutes past one, a. m. on the 24 of March the alarm was given that a fire had broken out in the rear of Gerson's Hall. It rapidly spread to Harris' store, and in a brief space of time Hagerty & Baker's drug store, Monahan's building and Newell & Co.'s hardware store were wrapped in flames. The buildings of Mrs. Marsh, A. Wait, Dr. Morgan and M. Rearick were torn down in order to arrest the progress of the fire.

The excitement was intense and a large crowd looked on with considerable anxiety. Many of our citizens worked nobly, and owing to their persistent efforts a large amount of property was saved. The following is a complete list of the losses and insurance:

David Monahan, corner store and contents, \$3,000, no insurance - some of the goods had been sent to Kansas City; J. H. Hagerty, building \$2,500, insurance \$1,200; Hagerty & Baker, stock of drugs, \$2,000, insurance \$1,000; Newell & Co., building and stock \$12,000, insurance \$5,500; G. M. Hahn, building \$2,000, insurance \$1,000; J. Koehler, stock \$500, no insurance; J. G. Strong, office furniture and safe damaged \$450, no insurance; Charles Koehline, building \$3,000, stock nearly all saved, no insurance; John A'Hern, building, stock and household goods \$2,100, insurance \$1,000; Mrs. Hamlin, drug store \$2,000, no insurance; G. A. Seymour, stock of drugs \$5,000, insurance \$2,000 - stock mostly saved; Mrs. Marsh, building and furniture \$600, no insurance; A. Wait, building and stock \$1,200, insurance \$350; Dr. Morgan, building \$1,000, insurance \$800; M. Rearick, building \$900, no insurance; J. Lanager, building \$250, no insurance; Joseph Gerson, building and stable \$4,200, insurance \$4,150; Isaac Harris, stock \$6,000, insurance \$8,000; J. H. Hagerty, shoe store \$900, no insurance; Mrs. Libby, household goods \$100, no insurance; Flaherty & Bro., furniture \$100, no insurance; H. Amick and Mrs. Scott, household goods \$300, no insurance; C. Koehline and Burnham, household goods, \$400; A. Wait, furniture, \$100. Total loss about \$40,000; insurance about \$25,000.

Disastrous as this fire was to the commercial interests of the town, yet it was not long before the sufferers were actively engaged in repairing their losses as far as possible. It would naturally be supposed that such an occurrence would affect the prosperity of Dwight, yet we find that in 1871 the town had so largely increased as to number over 1800 people, and that a thriving and growing business was being built upon a substantial foundation.

The town became a recognized market, and farmers for miles around brought their produce here. From 7,000 to 10,000 bushels of grain were, on the average received weekly, while

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large numbers of hogs and cattle were sent from this point daily.

Possessing such important social educational, commercial and religious advantages, it is not surprising that Dwight made for itself a good name and attracted many to the neighborhood, thus improving our position and increasing our wealth.

Murder, so common in this country, is not confined to one part alone; but in every section it happens now and again that some one falls a victim to passion or revenge.

The neighborhood of Dwight has, however, been comparatively free from these brutal demonstrations, and the fact is creditable to the residents of this locality. But, as in every mixed community, so here we have had, and still have some who neither fear God nor regard man.

Many years ago a Prussian nobleman, named Alvin V. Panwitz came to reside a few miles from Dwight. He was in the habit of drinking to excess, indeed, he spent most of his time in the saloons. Being in receipt of

half yearly remittances from Prussia, he did not depend on farming for his income. On January 23rd, 1872, he drew some money thus remitted to him, and as usual got drunk. Late at night he was going home in his sleigh with his hired man, Fredrick Shafer, a German, and accompanied by Conrad Reinmiller. A short distance from town Mr. Reinmiller left the sleigh because Panwitz and Shafer quarreled so violently. On arriving at the farm the horses were put in the stable, and the two men appear to have renewed the quarrel in the house.

Panwitz was lying on the bed when Shafer took up a large monkey-wrench and dealt him several blows on the head, completely fracturing his skull.

He then buried his victim in a compost heap near the stable.

The following three days he hauled corn to Nevada, when suspicion being aroused, he dressed himself in the clothes of his late master (whom he resembled somewhat), packed up the valuables, and started with the team for Chicago. Detectives were put on the track and he was soon discovered in a Chicago stable trying to dispose of the horses for a small amount. He was at once brought back to Dwight, and after a hearing, sent to Pontiac, where he was duly tried. He was sentenced to eighteen years imprisonment in Joliet Penitentiary.

On December 30th of this year the town again suffered by fire, but fortunately to a much less extent than on the former occasion. It appears that between nine and ten o'clock, a fire was discovered in Mrs. Henry's millinery store, but owing to the scarcity of water it could not be easily subdued.

A large crowd was soon on the spot and owing to their indefatigable exertions the principal stores in our town were saved. The millinery store and McWilliams' wooden bank were both destroyed, the chief contents being saved. The total loss was about \$1000.

This disaster did not affect the general progress of the town, but business increased and the people enjoyed a large share of prosperity.

In 1873 Hon. J. G. Strong built a handsome brick bank on East street and fitted it up with the latest office furnishings suitable for the banking business. It was an ornament and a credit to the town.

Later on D. McWilliams commenced his long promised brick building, which comprised a store and a bank with large halls above.

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The building was well fitted up for its several purposes and was a valuable addition to the village. And so, from these small beginnings which we have chronicled has risen the present prosperous, active, commercial village of Dwight. Few persons visit us without being convinced of the superior advantages we possess as compared with many other places, and the fact that many of our citizens have made large sums of money here in a short time is an evidence of the commercial privileges we enjoy.

## CHAPTER VII.

At this point it will be interesting to notice the early elevators of Dwight, the more so as they have all long since passed away. For this purpose we quote from the original history.

Elevators.

Another important feature of our town is its elevators.

As the business of the place depends chiefly on the grain which the farmers bring to this market, it is necessary that we have good warehouses for the handling of it.

The first attempt at this business was made by James C. Spencer about the year 1857, when he put up a small building and commenced to ship grain.

The business of the village, however, was rapidly increasing, and in 1862 McWilliams Bros., broke ground for, and laid the foundation of, a large warehouse on the east side of the railroad. The civil war, however, was just then assuming large proportions, and the men engaged on this building laid aside the tools of peace and took up the arms of war.

In 1864 Joseph McPherson completed the work, and it was thereafter known as "The Big Warehouse". Its capacity was 60,000 bushels and it was run for many years by E. L. Gooding.

The next building, a little to the north of McPherson's, was built in 1866 by C. S. Newell and John Campbell, who commenced operating in this gradually increasing business. This warehouse subsequently changed

hands and at one time was run by Eugene R. Stevens and John Thompson. Its capacity was 15,000 bushels. Two years later, in 1868, C. S. Newell and J. G. Strong embarked in another enterprise of this character and built the elevator adjoining the one last mentioned, on the north. This was successfully operated by J. G. Strong, Hugh Thompson and Jesse Deffenbaugh, under the firm name of Strong & Co.

This warehouse used steam power, its machinery being built upon the most approved principles, the engine costing over \$1000. The same power was also used by Stevens and Thompson in the adjoining elevator. The capacity of the Strong elevator was 15,000 bushels.

These old time elevators have all been removed and the parkway on the east side of the railroad tracks gives no evidence that it was ever occupied by these unsightly buildings. When the railroad company gets this parkway property improved it will add much to the town.

Another early elevator was built on the east side of the railroad track, a little south of the Round House, by Cadwallader and Rhodes. It was very substantially built at a cost of about \$4,000 and had a capacity of 17,000 bushels. Large cribs were built in connection with the elevator and a big business was done by the firm.

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In the same year Walter Bladen put up a warehouse a little north of Cadwallader and Rhodes'. It was of substantial construction and had a capacity of 12,000 bushels. Mr. Bladen did not remain in the business long.

In our previous history we gave several sketches of citizens prominent in the early history of the village, and we will reproduce some of the more important ones in this place, quoting from the original history, published in 1874.

Robert Thompson.

One of the pioneers of this neighborhood, who came here in its earliest days, and helped to mould our institutions, is Robert Thompson, Esq.

This gentleman came from Guernsey County, Ohio, arriving in the fall of 1854.

At that time, as our readers already know, there was no town here, and the prospects seemed to be dark.

Robert Thompson located on his farm west of Dwight, building a small residence and commenced farm work at once.

Land at that period, was worth from \$1.25 to \$5 an acre, and was desirable for farming purposes, it being rich and productive.

The nearest market was Morris, twenty miles away; here he had to go for groceries, and the nearest coal beds open at that time were the Vermillion, also twenty miles distant.

Robert Thompson was always a man of great public spirit and one of his first acts in this county was in the interests of education. He arrived here in October, and that fall found him beginning operations to build a school house for the district.

A man of fixed principles, having decided political and religious views, he soon made his mark in this county.

He served as a Justice of the Peace for four years, and as a county Supervisor for twelve years.

When this county was laid off into Congressional townships, he was appointed as one of the Commissioners to perform the work.

Another important office which he held was Commissioner by the Supervisors to reappraise the Swamp Lands in Livingston county.

There were 24,280 acres, and the three Commissioners and Surveyor were engaged in the work five weeks. There were no roads and the traveling was all done in a lumber wagon.

After successfully conducting his farm for nearly eighteen years he left his home and came to reside in the town.

Here he engaged in the Hardware and Agricultural Implement business with S. W. Porter; but the partnership being unprofitable it was dissolved the following year.

Robert Thompson was a successful farmer, and his material progress was an evidence of his enterprise and industry.

He was the founder of the Presbyterian church in Dwight, of which he was the only elder for several years.

He was a Presbyterian elder for over thirtyfive years.

As a political man he was always a Democrat, and, unlike many others, he was always true to his political principles.

Those who differed from him politically, nevertheless respected him for his honesty and sincerity.

Socially, Robert Thompson, or as he was more familiarly called, "Uncle Robert," was a success. Genial, cheerful, and of an amiable disposition, he was the friend of all alike, and universally loved and respected in the town

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which he helped to build up and which he loved so well.

He died in 1878 at the age of 72, mourned by a large circle of friends.

Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr.

Talent, combined with patient industry, is sure to make its way.

The lives of all great men have revealed the fact that honest, well directed toil is certain to command success.

The great question with the present generation is how to succeed in mercantile or professional operations, and numerous theories have, from time to time, been propounded for the public benefit.

But, as we look into the public and private life of any man of note, we generally find that he was a man of ability, integrity, industry and perseverance; these are the essentials of true commercial success.

The subject of this sketch is well known to our readers, and the various details of his life can not fail to interest as well as instruct; for we shall see how, step by step he rose to his present position as one of the leading Civil Engineers of our country.

Richard P. Morgan, Jr., was born at "Old Stockbridge," Massachusetts, on September 17th, 1828.

The first sixteen years of his life were spent on a farm, when, like many another farmer's son, he left the old homestead to battle with the difficulties of a professional career.

It is universally admitted that the choice of occupation for a boy is a most important matter. Many enter a profession hastily or incautiously, and, being totally unfitted for the position, failure is the natural result.

The first thing to be ascertained, is the natural inclination of the person concerned and if this be followed, success may be looked for with some amount of confidence. Especially is this true of a strictly professional career.

R. P. Morgan's ambition was to be a Civil Engineer, and later years proved the wisdom of his early choice.

To this profession he devoted himself with great energy, and it soon became evident that he was destined to occupy an important place amongst the Civil Engineers of America.

His first practice was on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, in 1845 and '46.

From that time to 1852 he was engaged in the construction of the Hudson River Railroad.

In 1852 he removed to Illinois, making Bloomington his home.

He at once entered on the survey and construction of the Chicago & Alton Railroad.

Upon the completion of this work in 1854 he was appointed General Superintendent of the road, and for several years had charge of its operations.

It was about this time that he performed one, of his best acts for the good of this Western country.

Owning a large tract of land in this neighborhood, he determined to lay out and build up a town here.

A village at this point was greatly needed, and Mr. Morgan determined that one should be established at any cost.

We have already told how he donated land for this purpose, and made every effort in his power to accomplish his scheme.

The incipient town was generously named after a brother Engineer, Mr. Morgan caring little for the honor of having it named after himself.

This is eminently a trait of Mr. Morgan's character. Generous to a fault, modest and retiring, he has never sought popular applause; but his

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works, his deeds are a living monument which party feeling can not crush and envy will never efface.

From 1857 to 1868, he was engaged in farming at Dwight, incidentally following his profession, and also the

real estate business. While this gave him an opportunity of improving the town, as well as a rest from his severer professional duties, yet it was not his congenial sphere.

From 1857 until after the close of the war, Mr. Morgan was active in national politics. In 1860 he was chairman of the Livingston County delegation to the state convention at Decatur, and was one of the most earnest supporters of Lincoln, who was present and there formally brought out by the State of Illinois for the presidency - the "rail candidate."

In 1864 General John A. Dix appointed him Division Engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad, from Denver to Great Salt Lake City, but Mr. Morgan declined the position in order to take professional part in the construction of the railroad system in Illinois, then entering upon the wonderful progress inaugurated by the "Local Aid" plan.

It should be mentioned in this place that at the time of which we are speaking Mr. Morgan perfected a method of rapid transit in cities. How to obtain this had long been a problem with Civil Engineers of different nations.

The various plans which were submitted to the public had defects which prevented them from being of permanent use. Mr. Morgan, however, cut the Gordian knot, he solved the difficult problem, and in his Gothic Arch Elevated Railway gave to the world the only successful scheme of rapid locomotion in cities. This invention unquestionably places him in the front rank of American Civil Engineers.

Upon the organization of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois, he was appointed by Governor Palmer as a member of that board. The professional position of Mr. Morgan, so well known in the state, induced the Governor to place him on the Commission, and the fidelity, energy and care with which he performed official duties, commanded the highest confidence and respect of the people of Illinois.

The churches of Dwight have always had a warm friend in Mr. Morgan, who made them several gifts of lots and money.

The cause of Temperance has always had his approval and support, and in all the original deeds of lots in Dwight he had prohibitory clauses and covenants inserted.

At the time of the war he was President of the Union organization and lent valuable aid to that important cause.

Mr. Morgan has always been a true friend and earnest advocate of social reform, and benevolent objects have ever received bountiful aid at his hands.

Socially Mr. Morgan is generally liked.

There is a geniality and friendliness in his manner which makes the stranger feel at home with him; and his friends well know the amiable, kindly and loving disposition which he uniformly displays.

There is no wonder, therefore, that he is a general favorite with the people, whose interests he always has at heart, and whose happiness he invariably tries to promote.

That he may live long and have every success in life is the wish of all

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who know him; and the record of his life, his industry, patience and skill show us that he is yet destined to fill the most important offices in the gift of the people who know him so well.

In conclusion it is fitting at this date to state that in 1903, under the laws of Illinois, the Trustees, President and Faculty of the University of Illinois, recognizing the high citizenship, professional abilities and attainments of Mr. Morgan, conferred upon him the honorary degree of "Doctor of Engineering."

Hon. J. G. Strong.

Every man is what he makes himself. Two youths starting from the same point, with equal advantages, will often arrive at different goals in life. We are accustomed to lay much stress on opportunities, and believe that a man's advantages or chances either make or ruin him. This is a mistake. It is true that opportunities may largely help a man, but it should be remembered that we have the power to make them where they do not exist.

The man who waits for the turning tide may have a dreary time of it and never see the realization of his hopes. Micawber was always expecting "something to turn up," but never trying to turn it up himself.

The world is full of chances, and if we will but seize them, act on them, we may achieve success in our several undertakings.

"Let us then be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait."

The life of J. G. Strong was based on the poet's advice, and as we note the several particulars, we observe how patience and industry overcame the greatest difficulties, and brought permanent and honorable prosperity.

The subject of this sketch was born on March 4th, 1836, in Lebanon, Boone county, Indiana. In early life he received a sound English education, graduating at the Cincinnati Law College in 1859. He at once removed to Illinois, and being without funds and comparatively without prospects, he determined to have a partner to share his fortune with him. Many a man has done the same, and an idle, shiftless, aimless life has been the result. But Mr. Strong had a good purpose and a strong will as after events have clearly shown. On April 25th, 1859, he married Miss Rebecca Minerva Witt, at Lebanon, Ind. When he married he had just \$5, of this amount he gave \$3 to the clergyman; and borrowing \$50 he at once went to housekeeping. He engaged to teach school in Robert Thompson's school, three miles distant, for \$1 a day, walking out from town and back again every day. Sometimes he would have a lawsuit, and make a little that way. Sometimes he would do a little farm work and earn something at that; and the result was that at the end of the six months he was out of debt even paying back the \$50 he had borrowed.

At this time Mr. Strong hoed corn two days for a little pig, which was valued at \$1.50.

No matter what the work was, he willingly did it, in order to gain an honest livelihood.

He next turned his attention to collections and real estate business, in company with R. P. Morgan, giving up the practice of the law.

During the war Mr. Strong kept an office here for back pay, bounties and

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pensions, which he collected free of charge. He made about 150 successful applications.

In the fall of 1870 he was elected, on the Republican ticket, to the Legislature, where he served two years, when he was elected to the Senate for four years.

In 1866 Mr. Strong opened an Exchange office for the accommodation of merchants, and afterwards carried on an extensive banking business in this town. His new brick building was at once an evidence of his prosperity and enterprise.

He invested \$3,000 in the East and West Railroad, and was appointed by the Governor to represent the interests of this town.

When the Methodist church was built, Mr. Strong subscribed \$1000 to the building fund, not knowing how he was going to spare the money, as it was one-fifth of all he was worth, but he worked it out successfully, and promptly paid up the amount subscribed.

He was a trustee of this church for many years, and always took great interest in its welfare.

Mr. Strong, in the course of his career held many town offices, and frequently was entrusted with public positions, yet these did not prevent him from attending to business duties.

Mr. Strong was a portly gentleman of good breeding, refined education, and easy address.

As the architect of his own fortune he is entitled to respect, and as a public man of ability and honesty of purpose, he deservedly holds the popular regard of those amongst whom he lived and the State at large.

Mr. Strong having met with financial reverses in the panic of 1873, which carried down so many thousand of commercial houses, accepted the office of Secretary of the Yankton Indian Agency, located at a point on the Missouri River in Charles Mix County of South Dakota; and to which place his family removed in the autumn of 1879. This selection of Mr. Strong for the position, was through the personal friendship for him of Hon. John A. Logan, who believed that he would greatly assist the Government in settling the many vexatious questions which were then to be determined with relation to the treatment of the Indians. Mr. Strong's well known character for honesty and ability, merited the trust reposed in him by his friend, Senator Logan. After a three years' residence he removed to Kansas, where he engaged in the handling of grain and milling till his death, which occurred the 4th of September, 1895, at Blue Rapids, Kansas, at the age of 59 years and 6 months.

At the holding of his obsequies, every business house in Blue Rapids was closed, and there was a very large attendance of his friends from other towns and states.

It will be as to his work in the Legislature of Illinois, that Mr. Strong will be longest remembered, he having been of the foremost in the service of the state, standing at all times for the people and for all measures which were for their benefit.

The Chicago Post of February 13th, 1871, contained the following article, on this subject:

"Mr. J. G. Strong's Railroad Bill."

"Senator Strong has introduced a bill in the Illinois Legislature, whose object is to place the control of the railways of the state in a commission composed of three men, to be appointed by the Governor. The bill provides a salary of \$5,000.00 a year for

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each of the Commissioners, and \$2,000.00 for a clerk of the Board. The provisions of the bill in respect to the powers and duties of the Commissioners are quite sweeping.

"They are empowered in general term, to have supervision of all railways, steam or other sort, in the State; to regulate tariffs and passenger rates; to compel additions to rolling stock to be made when necessary, etc. The Commissioners are bound, upon petition of any municipal corporation, or of twenty voters, to inquire into any charge made against the management of any road. In case of accident, all the facts must be reported forthwith by the railway officials to the Commissioners.

"It will be seen from this synopsis of the bill that it is a measure upon the idea of creating an entirely new system in respect to State control over railway corporations. Whether Mr. Strong's bill shall be adopted or not, therefore, a discussion of this idea will necessarily take place in the Legislature, and in the journals of the State. It is very certain that this discussion can not too thoroughly or too candidly be made. It is not denied that the railway system presents one of the most difficult problems, both commercial and political, which are now receiving the consideration of the public. It is not denied that in this question are many others, each of great practical importance, each of no little difficulty.

"The question of practical management of railways, as distinguished from the question of the management of their finances, is the one of which the bill under notice proposes to dispose. One of its results, should it prevail, and the anticipations of its friends in respect to its benefits be fulfilled, would be at least a considerable modification of the stock operations of such men as Fisk and Vanderbilt. But the Legislature of Illinois will have done its duty in the premises better than other Legislatures have yet been able to do, should it satisfactorily settle the difficulty between railway management and the public."

Thus was Mr. Strong the leader in railroad legislation; and the bill referred to above in the quotation from the Chicago Post, by his leadership in the Illinois Legislature became an Act, and in force July 1st (1871), and became in the main the act establishing a Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners for the State. Many very highly important results came from this measure in direct benefit to the people, whose interests Mr. Strong always had in view and for which he was ever contending. It is greatly to his credit and shows his remarkable foresight and clear view of future conditions that the principles which were inculcated in his bill and which were its foundations, have stood the test for thirty years before the courts and the public in the warfare between the railways and the people, thus proving their justice and the righteousness of the cause which he so ably led in 1871.

Another matter which Mr. Strong advocated and carried to a successful issue during his term in the Legislature and by which he is still remembered, as it is in vogue today, is the matter of letting contracts for the state. He introduced a bill entirely remodeling the system on a thoroughly business basis, thus saving thousands of dollars to the state.

These two measures alone suffice to show the sterling character and cal-

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ibre of the man and the lines of conduct which he followed through his active and useful life. His constant aim and thought was for the benefit of the people, the uplifting of humanity, the welfare of those around him. This was exemplified in all local matters of improvement, which he liberally supported to the fullest extent of his ability financially, morally and mentally. A good man himself, his aim was to do good to others, and his

whole life was devoted to this. His public work has won the gratitude of all lovers of our State, while his private record of good deeds cheerfully done has won the loving remembrance of all who knew him.

## CHAPTER VIII.

In the original history we undertook to speak of the future of Dwight, and we here reproduce what was then written. It will be interesting from many viewpoints and will no doubt be very carefully compared. We do not assume to be a prophet and in this instance simply record our views as to the future of our village. We prophesied prosperity and it has come to us. Here is the original narrative:

### DWIGHT FUTURE.

What shall be the future of Dwight? is a question difficult to answer. The visionary statements of some men in reference to the future of this country may or may not be true. The theory that in less than two years this world will come to an end may be simply a fancy or it may be a solemn truth. The supposition that Chicago will eventually be the National Capital may be correct, or it may only be the dream of a few real estate speculators.

The future is hidden in the womb of time, and it is impossible for us to say what it will reveal to us.

In speaking, therefore, of the future of Dwight, we must not be unmindful of what has happened in similar circumstances in other places.

The human mind is fond of speculating on the unknown. Manifested in the betting ring, shown on the Stock Exchange, it finds a higher development in social and moral life. The tendency of the age is to form opinions on important subjects, the truth of which is not known to us.

Take it in reference to the probable fate of a nation, a city or town.

Away back in ancient history we find that the speculations of early sages were often far from correct; and when their loved empire and thrice loved city bore the inscription "Ichabod," the world knew that human foresight had failed to read the future aright.

In more modern times we have had predictions of a like character sometimes truthful enough, and often false enough.

At one time it was confidently supposed by many that France would always maintain her military strength and that the genius and power of Napoleon would yet bring all European nations to his feet.

A few brief weeks, the excitement of which it will be hard to forget, proved the superiority of German arms; the unfortunate 4th of September at Sedan declared to the world the downfall of an Emperor, the overthrow of a powerful dynasty.

The seers were not always right in their French predictions.

Let us cross the Atlantic and look at our own country, the glorious Republic of America.

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When the civil war broke out there were not a few at home as well as abroad who clearly foresaw the dissolution of Union and the complete victory of Southern arms.

The fight was long and tedious, victory inclining first to one and then to the other, but after Atlanta had been sacked and Richmond taken and the Northern army had passed triumphantly through the Southern States, at Appomatox the doom of Slavery was sealed, the curse of Rebellion crushed, and the peace of holy Union permanently made.

Let us go a step further and look at some of our large cities.

Built upon some advantageous spot, reared by interested hands, they have been the idol of a few.

Today, there are some who believe New York to be the Paradise of America, others accord the same homage to Philadelphia, Boston "is the hub of the social system," and Chicago is the most important city between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. At least so their several admirers and believers think.

Good old Abe Lincoln once said that "the Almighty might have made a better State than Illinois, but He hasn't." There must have been some prejudice in that statement, because a Buckeye can not accept it, a Hoosier will not admit it, while an inhabitant of the Bay State would declare it to be an unmitigated fraud. We must therefore come to one conclusion, and that is, that men are prejudiced in favor of their particular nation, state or town, and even, to tell the whole truth, in favor of their particular location. Hence it is



difficult to get an unbiased view in reference to the present of a place, but much more difficult in reference to its future prospects.

The next question is, will Dwight have a future at all that will be worth mentioning? We think it certainly will, without being unnaturally prejudiced in its favor, and avoiding all excessive stretch of the imagination, it will be our duty to state the probable future of our town, based on its past history.

The rapidity with which Dwight grew in its early years was due to the settlement of the surrounding country, for as soon as the neighboring farms were occupied and in working order, there was produce to sell, and merchandise to buy. Hence it was necessary to have elevators, stores, and so forth.

Now as the enighboring country is all settled up, it will at once be inferred that Dwight will cease to grow; but the inference is incorrect.

Year by year our farmers are increasing their wealth; year by year they are improving their homes, barns and farm buildings; year by year they are procuring improved implements of industry, and last, but not least, year by year they are increasing their amount of produce for the market.

With the increased facilities now possessed by the farmer, there is no reason to doubt that he will continue to increase his farm productions.

The past five years has clearly shown that Dwight is one of the most important shipping points for grain on this line of railroad.

It is now rated as the second largest, Mason City being ahead.

It will probably surprise many readers to find that Dwight ships a million and a half bushels of grain on the average every year.

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One year the shipments actually reached 1,800,000 bushels.

Enormous as this amount seems at first sight, yet, upon close examination we find that it only averages about two cars a day from each elevator the year round.

There can be no doubt that a large quantity of grain is handled in other markets which might be brought to Dwight.

It is probable that a new elevator will soon be established here and increased competition, combined with increased advantages can not fail to augment the grain trade at this point.

Some attention is now being paid to the roads leading into our town, and if all the several roads are put in good order and made as firm and solid as possible, there can be no doubt that it will have a beneficial effect on our commercial interests.

Then again Dwight has, of late years, become a first rate market for cattle and hogs. From all parts of the surrounding country farmers bring their stock to Dwight because it is recognized as a valuable and safe market.

During the past year an immense trade in this department has been carried on here, and present indications go to show that the trade will develop itself and yet assume more extensive proportions.

The following figures will give the reader some idea of the extensive nature of this business, and when we remember that several competent buyers are now engaged in it we shall see that it is likely to be much more important in the future than it has been in the past. The annual shipments of cattle average about 1,200 head. Live hogs about 6,000 head.

These figures speak for themselves, and at once prove that Dwight is a first class market for cattle and hogs. A little wholesome competition, good stock yards, and fair dealing will not fail to make Dwight one of the most important shipping points between St. Louis and Chicago.

This town has also a favorable reputation as a market for butter, poultry, eggs and other farm produce. There are men here who are regularly handling large quantities of this class of produce, and the trade is rapidly increasing.

The annual shipments in this department are very large and suffice to show that Dwight is an important butter and general produce market.

The annual amount of butter shipped averages about 320,000 pounds.

Eggs, 80,000 dozen. Poultry, 1,800 dozen.

These amounts are increasing every year, and with the impetus now given to this class of business, it is fair to suppose that it will become one of our most important branches of trade.

And we must not forget that when this produce is brought to town, the vendor generally requires merchandise in exchange.

Hence we find that large stores are now doing a lucrative trade here. Where, a few years ago, we had small stores carrying a limited stock of goods, we now have large business houses, where the purchaser can find any article he may need for consumption or wear.

These stores are rapidly developing their business interests, holding out greater inducements to farmers and generally improving the trade of the town.

Some time ago it was supposed that brick could be successfully made in this neighborhood. The experiment was made, and resulted in the produc-

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tion of a good quality of hard brick.

If this business is prosecuted it will be of great benefit to Dwight, as it will open up a large trade in brick, bringing with it a fair share of other business as well.

For some time past Dwight has received many accessions in the families of farmers who have ceased farming, and come to be residents of our thriving village.

Many will thus be induced to take up their abode with us, because here we have many advantages not always found in a Western town.

The various religious denominations have good church buildings, and the Sabbath is usually well observed. Our Schools are commodious, and the course of instruction is most thorough, the Directors always placing them under first class supervision.

Thus, our citizens are able to send their children to school, with the knowledge that respectability will be observed and a sound education imparted to the youthful mind.

These Schools receive the constant attention of the Directors, whose aim it is to make them second to none in the country.

We have here men of enterprise and ability who will use every opportunity in their power to make Dwight a good business point, and a desirable place to locate in.

What then, will be its future history? Looking back over the past, taking note of the various points just mentioned, we may confidently expect that Dwight will be more prosperous in the future than ever it has been in the past.

Present indications show us that a large business will always be done here, that improvements, both public and private, will constantly be made, and the town Itself will gain a prominent front rank position on the line of the Chicago & Alton road.

In the foregoing pages, we have endeavored to give a plain, straightforward and truthful account of "Dwight, Past, Present and Future." How we have succeeded is for the public to say.

In procuring the information and preparing it for publication much difficulty has been experienced, and if there are any mistakes in this book, the reader will kindly blame the difficulties and not the writer.

We form a part of a great nation, one of the most powerful nations in the world. As a part we necessarily exercise an influence on some other part, and indirectly, on the whole.

Let every citizen of Dwight, and let every reader of this book, therefore, consider that he has power to do something for his country.

Individual efforts prelude organized movements; from the scattered homes of our farming population has come a cry which has echoed throughout the civilized world.

What this town is to be in the future will depend largely upon ourselves; what America is to be will also depend largely upon its citizens.

The days of darkness, social, political and moral are well nigh past, and men are looking for a brighter time, when peace and prosperity shall continue to bless our shores.

Let every man, therefore, stand firmly in defense of Right; Right in commerce, Right in private life, Right in the State; Right everywhere and at every time.

Let every man stand firmly opposed to oppression, monopoly, and all classes of aristocratic thieving; and as the cry has gone forth from the over bur-

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dened sons of toil, "Who will help us?" let the answer go back, from every honest man, saying "We come, we come." And when the future historian sits down to write the history of Dwight, and marks the good deeds performed by you, my reader, in the sacred cause of liberty, he will have a noble story to place on record; and though the sphere in which you move may be small, and your opportunities few, yet the world shall not be ashamed, but rather glory in the history of Dwight in the Future.

We have thus narrated in a brief, yet comprehensive manner, the chief items of interest in the early history of our town.

The principal events which transpired between the years 1853 and 1875 have been carefully noted down. These pages will recall many incidents to the mind of the early resident, and faces long since forgotten will once more appear to the imagination.

We can not look back to and chronicle these early events without many feelings of a diverse character.

This part of earth's stage has had its quota of actors in the past. Some of them, after playing awhile have passed away to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns"; others are still acting out their parts, now changing the costume, or altering the role, but still taking their part in the great drama of life. And while the actions and speeches are recorded by the historian many will be inclined to sit in the critic's chair, and give praise to one and blame to another. Some, having no eye to the merits of the past, but looking only at results, will give a general assent to all that is done or said.

But hark! the manager's bell rings; hurrying feet behind the scenes are heard; and, as the last notes of music die out amid the recesses of the building, the curtain falls on the early history of Dwight.

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## NOW

### CHAPTER IX.

#### Social.

So far we have chronicled the happenings of Dwight for the first twenty-one years of its existence, and now it may be fairly said to have attained its majority and be able to speak for itself. This being the case we shall no longer confine ourselves to noticing the births, marriages and deaths, together with a list of the sociables held and the houses built, but shall leave that department to those who have no higher aim or ambition than to rehash the gossip of the day.

We now want to look at Dwight as a village, a community having interests in common and affecting the general welfare of the whole. The question is as to the growth of the village along general lines, and this is what we want to illustrate as well as we are able. The last thirty years has shown the greatest development along all lines and is worthy of notice and study. It is our intention to consider this progress from several standpoints - the social, moral, religious, educational, material and commercial. This will afford a fair estimate of the actual growth of the village as a village and will be a true history of Dwight as it stands before the world.

In the beginning of things at Dwight social life was of a crude order, in harmony with the surroundings. It was a prairie village and nothing more. Men came here to till the soil and much of their time was taken up with the unceasing effort to wrest from Nature a fair return for the labor done. There was scant time for the amenities of modern civilization and still smaller opportunity to indulge in them. It must not be supposed that these men, and women, did not know any better or had not been accustomed to something better. As a matter of fact they came from good families and good homes as a rule and were familiar with the usages of society. But they had to adapt themselves to their environment and were soon assimilated by it. This has been almost universally the case in the settlement of new neighborhoods in the West. As the years went by and things got settled down and people began to get a little ahead in the world there came back to them the natural desire for the benefits of the best type of civilization. Changes began to be apparent in many directions. Young men and women began to dress better and the stores had to carry a better line of goods in order to meet the new demand. The evolution of the dry goods trade in Dwight is a fair index to the change we have noted. In the last few years this change has become so noticeable that now one can not tell the farmer from the city man by his

dress, and if he can by chance do so with the men he will fail with the women. This is even more true of village life and here we find that what

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is good enough for Chicago or New York is none too good for Dwight. In the matter of dress our men and women hold their own with the cities.

The same thing is true of our homes. What was a good home thirty or forty years ago is now hardly fit for a barn and would not be considered for a modern garage. Houses have increased in size and style. Nowadays more room is needed in the home to utilize the advantages of our modern civilization and the question of heat is no longer a factor, compelling close quarters in the winter. The up-to-date house is lighted by electricity and has all sanitary conveniences, just like a city home. The architecture is equal to that found in the large cities of the country, and the furnishings are on a scale in harmony with the building. In this connection we find the usual development in the lines which cater to personal and home adornment, and we find large stocks of these goods now carried by Dwight merchants in order to meet the increasing demand. This all indicates that the social life of the village has undergone a great change in the external appearances and shows that people have regard for the opinions of each other as well as a desire to live up to the best style known. The same thing holds good all through the externals, even the conveyances show it. First, the old lumber wagon, then the buggy, then the two seated carriage, then the surrey or phaeton, and today the touring automobile. This one item is a good illustration of the development of social life in Dwight during its existence.

In the early days the people had few opportunities to get together in a social way and every opportunity was eagerly seized upon. The church sociable was one of the first means used to get the people together, and while it served its purpose in raising money it did its chiefest work, probably, in catering to the social needs of the people. Of course gossip was the main topic of conversation but it served its purpose. The talkers got acquainted and friendships were formed which led to exchange of visits and the gradual development of social life. For it was not always gossip; other things came up for discussion from time to time and so, step by step, the social life was developed. This interchange of visits and opinions naturally led to comparisons with each other and with those in the outside world and the inevitable result was the improvement of all. Then came public meetings, apart from the church services, and afterwards meetings along special lines for mental and moral improvement. There were not many books in the community and papers were not very plentiful, but there was always a real desire for knowledge upon the part of our people, and there never was a time in our history when folks were not intensely interested in the world's work and its greater doings. One of the earliest phases of this social spirit was manifested in 1862 when it was determined to have a Masonic Lodge at this place. There were a few Masons here and they realized the benefit such an institution would be to the town as well as to themselves individually. Accordingly, on March 1st, 1862, the first meeting of Livingston Lodge, A. F. and A. M., U. D., was held, with the following officers present: E. N. Jencks, W. M.; W. L. Gross, S. W.; J. W. Rockwell, J. W.; C. S. Newell, Secretary; S. S. Strong, Treasurer; L. H. Cordroy, S.

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D.; Samuel Gaghen, J. D.; E. G. Putnam, Tyler; J. E. Williams, S. S.; S. S. Sexton, J. S.

The first petitions for membership were from Samuel McGooden and S. B. Lundgren.

This Lodge was U. D. till the 8th of October, 1862, when it received its first charter, which was issued by F. M. Blair, G. M.; W. E. Owen, D. G. M.; Asa W. Blakesley, S. G. W.; J. C. Baker, J. G. W.; Harmon G. Reynolds, G. S.

The first officers under the charter were: E. N. Jencks, W. M.; S. T. Walkley, S. W.; C. S. Newell, J. W.

The order steadily grew in numbers and influence, and had a marked effect on the social life of the town. It has done a large amount of practical good which has not been made public, and has always been enlisted on the side of good government and right living. A great many men have joined this Lodge during its existence. Some have died, some have moved away, but it has always enjoyed a good membership and held a leading position in the life of the village. The present membership is 85, and the present officers of Livingston Lodge, No. 371, A. F. and A. M. are as follows: H. D. Wolff, W. M.; W. J. Drew, S. W.; M. A. Messlein, J. W.; F. W. Ford, Secretary; R. D. Gregg, Treasurer; Julius Wright, S. D.; C. I. Myers, J. D.; George T. Pettitt,

S. S.; Martin Seabert, J. S.; George Peterson, Tyler.

Frank W. Ford has been Secretary of this Lodge for thirty years, a record which it will be difficult to duplicate elsewhere. Mr. Ford is one of our old citizens, who has grown up with the village and helped to make it what it is, and his faithful and intelligent work amongst the Masons has contributed to the welfare of the community.

The Lodge has recently sold its property on Chippewa street and bought the old Hagerty property at the corner of Delaware and Prairie avenue, where it will erect a splendid Masonic Hall. We understand the plans are well under way and that this new Temple will be a credit to the village no less than to the Masonic order. The sister organization to the Masons is well represented in Dwight in the order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. John A. Pettett organized Dwight Chapter No. 166, O. E. S. He, with his daughter, Miss Matilda F. Pettett, having taken the degrees of the Order in Bloomington, Ill., became charter members, with twelve others, who were invested with the degrees through Mr. John M. Simpson, who was deputized by Mrs. Sue M. Simpson, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of the State of Illinois to institute Dwight Chapter, October 31st, 1890.

This Chapter worked Under Dispensation until the annual session of the Grand Chapter, when a Charter was granted and the number 166 was given, in October, 1891. The following were the charter members: Mr. Joan A. Pettett, Mr. Charles Crandall, Miss Lucy Crandall, Mr. Joseph Miller, Mr. Charles L. Romberger, Mr. Millard Bell, Mr. John Leach, Miss Matilda F. Pettett, Miss Joanna Crandall, Mrs. Samuel C. Wilkinson, Mrs. Joseph Miller, Mrs. Charles L. Romberger, Mrs. Millard Bell, Mrs. John Leach.

The first officers were as follows: Mrs. Rose Miller, Worthy Matron; John A. Pettett, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Maud Wilkinson, Associate Matron; Miss Matilda F. Pettett, Secretary;

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Miss Joanna Crandall, Treasurer; Miss Lucy Crandall, Conductress; Mrs. Nellie E. Romberger, Associate Conductress.

During the seventeen years of its existence there have been twelve Worthy Matrons, eight Worthy Patrons, seven Secretaries, eleven Treasurers, eleven Conductresses and ten Associate Conductresses, as follows: Worthy Matrons - Mrs. Rose Miller, 1890-91-92; Mrs. Nora Goodman Thole, 1893; Mrs. Nellie E. Romberger, 1894; Mrs. Margaret Leach, 1895; Mrs. Maud Wilkinson, 1896; Mrs. Emma Taylor, 1897-98; Mrs. Margaret Leach, 1899; Miss Matilda Pettett, 1900; Miss Lucy Crandall, 1891; [sic.] Mrs. Emma Taylor, 1902; Miss Alice Bennett, 1903-04; Mrs. Abbie Lee, 1905; Mrs. Rebecca M. Strong, 1906; Dr. Florence Thompson, 1907.

Worthy Patrons - John A. Pettett, 1890-91; Charles L. Romberger, 1892; John A. Pettett, 1893; John Leach, 1894; Rev. Charles Wesley Ayling, 1895; Charles Crandall, 1896; John Leach, 1897; John A. Pettett, 1898; George W. Horton, 1899; John Leach, 1900; George W. Horton, 1901; Vinton S. Wright, 1902-03; Samuel C. Wilkinson, 1904; Vinton S. Wright, 1905-06; John A. Pettett, 1907.

Secretaries - Miss Matilda F. Pettett, 1890-91-92-93; Charles L. Romberger, 1894; Mrs. Nora Goodman Thole, 1895; Miss Estella Baker, 1896; Miss Pauline E. Fox, 1897; Miss Ella Blake, part of 1898; Mrs. Maud Wilkinson, 1899-1900-01-02-03-04-05-06-07.

Treasurers - Miss Joanna Crandall, 1890-91; Miss Estella Baker, 1892; Mrs. Ella Stowe Blaine, 1893; Mrs. S. Isabelle Parsons, 1894; Mrs. Delia Miller, 1895-96; Mrs. Margaret Mayes, 1897; Mrs. Cora B. Horton, 1898; Mrs. Emma Chamberlin, 1899; Mrs. Margaret Leach, 1900-01; Mrs. Clara Cooke, 1902-03-04-05; Miss Matilda F. Pettett, 1906-07.

Conductress - Miss Lucy Crandall, 1890-91-92-93; Mrs. Nora Goodman Thole, 1894; Mrs. Elizabeth Buck, 1895-96; Mrs. Emma Chamberlin, 1897; Miss Lucy Crandall, 1898; Mrs. Rose Miller, 1899; Mrs. Margaret C. Smith, 1900; Mrs. Cora B. Horton, 1901-02; Miss Lydia Seabert, 1903; Dr. Florence Thompson, 1904; Miss Agnes Knudsen, 1905-06; Miss Elsie Liggitt, 1907.

Associate Conductress - Mrs. Nellie E. Romberger, 1890-91-92; Mrs. Jennie Ubellar, 1893; Mrs. Ella Doty, 1894-95-96; Miss Lucy Crandall, 1897; Mrs. Margaret Leach, 1898; Mrs. Margaret C. Smith, 1899; Mrs. Lillie Pierce Stevens, 1900; Mrs. Margaret Smith, 1901; Miss Lydia L. Seabert, 1902; Miss Jessie McCune, 1903-04; Miss Elsie Liggitt, 1905-06; Miss Lucy Crandall, 1907.

The death angel has visited this Chapter and taken away twelve members to join the Chapter on High. Mrs. Alice Oakshett, Dec. 12th, 1891.

Miss Joanna Crandall, March 20th, 1892.  
Mrs. Retta M. Hawley, Lockport, Ill., Feb. 1st, 1896.  
Mrs. Maymie Terwilliger Brown, August 12th, 1897.  
Charles Crandall, Sept. 19th, 1899.  
Mrs. Jane Flagler, March 19th, 1903.  
Benjamin A. Buck, Nov. 29th, 1906.  
Mrs. Nellie E. Romberger, Dec. 28th, 1906.  
Charles L. Romberger, Feb. 28th, 1907.  
Mrs. Mira A. Crocker, March 2d, 1907.  
Mrs. Lois Dondanville Kirby, Cedarville, Kan., Oct. 2rth,[sic.] 1907.  
Charles Henry Lee, Nov. 22d, 1907.

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Each one is sadly missed, but their memory is ever green and tenderly cherished. While the Chapter worked the first year U. D., twenty-six members were initiated. The membership at this time varies from fifty to sixty. Each year brings some new members, and from change of residence and death, each year records some loss.

At the tenth anniversary all the Worthy Matrons were present but one.

It is not too much to say that the local Chapter of the Eastern Star has done a large part of the work in the development of the social life of the village and must be reckoned as one of the principal factors in the work. For more than ten years the Masons was the only secret society in the village and had a clear field, but in 1873 a dispensation was granted to institute an Odd Fellows' Lodge in Dwight and a meeting was held in Masonic Hall on May 22d, 1873, when Deputy Grand Master J. S. Hunter, of Odell, regularly instituted Dwight Lodge, I. O. O. F. No. 513, and the following officers were elected: C. C. Gilbert, N. G.; H. A. Stevens, V. G.; M. W. Tambling, Secretary; Thomas Weldon, Treasurer.

On the application of the following members a charter was granted by Grand Master G. M. Bross, on October 14th, 1873: C. C. Gilbert, W. S. Sims, M. W. Tambling, John L. Clark, Thomas Weldon, Hugh A. Stevens, E. P. Utley.

Of the original eight charter members, Myron W. Tambling is the only one who is a member of the Lodge today. During its history it has had a large number of members, some of whom have died and some moved away. The present membership is 115, composed of our best citizens and actively pushing forward the work of the Order.

Since its inauguration it has paid out in benefits to members the sum of \$6,500. In addition to this the Lodge has made very liberal donations to the Odd Fellows' Orphan Home at Lincoln and to the Old Folks' Home at Mattoon and has always shown a great interest in the work of the two homes. The Lodge owns a fine farm of 200 acres in Iowa, valued at \$14,000 and is in a very prosperous condition.

The present officers are: Andrew Mathison, Noble Grand; Robert Tambling, Vice Grand; W. H. Graham, Secretary; A. A. Boyer, Treasurer. Martin Nelson is the Representative to the Grand Lodge.

It is certain that the Odd Fellows' Lodge has contributed largely to the social life of the village, in more ways than one. It has been a center of attraction, furnishing many functions of interest and it has developed a fraternal, social spirit among its own members and those connected with them. Hence it has played no inconspicuous part in the elevation of the village and is still contributing its full share to the public good in this respect. The very foundations and principles of the Order would suggest this.

American Odd Fellowship was founded in Baltimore, Md., on April 26th, 1819, by Thomas Wildey and four others, and so Thomas Wildey is justly regarded as the Father of American Odd Fellowship. That was 88 years ago and the story of the intervening years reads almost like a romance. Beginning with five members, over two million have since been initiated into the Order; it has extended its influence all over the country and to

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many foreign lands; it has spent princely sums for benevolence; it has built palatial homes for its orphans, its aged and infirm, and it has paid out millions upon millions of dollars to relieve distress. But more, for this is only the material side of the picture. It has made good citizens, good husbands and fathers, it has made its

members men in the truest sense of the word, fitted to carry out the holiest and noblest ambitions of life. Odd Fellowship is founded on the two cardinal principles of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It is only a name to many and to most it is only a fraternal organization. But the word "fraternal" is one of the words which have undergone a great change in meaning in late years and hence it does not, as popularly used, convey an adequate idea of Odd Fellowship. Today the country is full of "fraternal" organizations which are conducted on a purely commercial basis. Their object is to furnish help to members in sickness and disability and to their beneficiaries in the event of death. The whole thing is of a financial character and does not pretend to go beyond that, and hence can hardly be called "fraternal" although the law dignifies it by that name.

Odd Fellowship is built upon a broader foundation, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Acknowledging the first the second naturally follows. Shakespeare says that "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin," and St. Paul tells us that "God hath made of one blood all nations of men," but these only convey a general idea of a common interest or sympathy. Odd Fellowship goes further and adds to this the actual observance of the holiest duties embodied in the idea of universal brotherhood. Hence it has adopted four specific lines of work as being a proper exhibition of its principles. These are, to visit the sick, to relieve the distressed, to bury the dead, and to protect and care for the orphan, the aged and infirm.

Odd Fellowship does not teach theology but it does teach religion, for the Bible says that "Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This is better than dogma and beats the best creed ever devised by human intelligence.

Odd Fellowship does not teach politics, but it informs its members how to live honorably, and imbues them with a proper appreciation of the responsibilities of life toward each other, toward the family and toward the state. This is better than a political platform because it goes to the heart of true living and good government. Odd Fellowship takes a good man into its membership and aims to make him better. It seeks to draw out the good in him, to develop the highest and best in his nature, to fit him for the duties devolving upon him, and to enable him to take his part in the amelioration of the condition of humanity. He becomes the sworn foe of vice in all its forms, the friend of virtue, honesty and integrity, and the champion of the weak and distressed. Belonging to many different churches, political parties and having multifarious aims and purposes in life yet, under the beneficent teachings of Odd Fellowship these diversified interests are never mentioned or discussed. All meet on common ground, agree on common principles applicable to all

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and are bound by their obligations to live up to the teachings of the order. Friendship, Love and Truth makes a good motto for Odd Fellowship but it hardly does it justice, because the Order practices with a liberal hand the principles it professes. An Odd Fellow is more than a friend, he is a brother. If he travels anywhere where civilization is known he will find other brothers who will be more to him than any friend could be. If he is sick he is carefully tended and nursed and all his wants provided for as no friend would ever think of doing. If he dies, his brothers lay him gently away and speak kindly words in his memory. If his widow and children are left helpless they become the constant care of the dead man's brothers; the widow is provided for, the orphans are given a home, care, education and fitted to take the places which may be assigned them in life. This is Odd Fellowship, practical brotherhood, free from cant or sham; free from galling fetters, free from worldly influences, the highest and noblest exposition of the Brotherhood of Man as founded on the Fatherhood of God.

The sister organization to the Odd Fellows is called The Daughters of Rebekah. Prairie Queen Rebekah Lodge, No. 370, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Dwight, Illinois, January 29th, 1895.

Mr. W. H. Fenton, of Unity Lodge, No. 68, Gardner, Illinois, assisted by members of the same Lodge, instituted Prairie Queen Lodge, initiated new members and installed its officers. The first officers were as follows:

Miss Nora Goodman (now Mrs. Thole), Noble Grand; Miss Matilda F. Pettett, Vice Grand; Mrs. Fannie Starrett, Secretary; Mrs. Nora A. Ketcham, Treasurer; Miss Nellie C. Taylor (now Mrs. Edward Flagler), Conductress; Miss Mabelle E. Reeder (now Mrs. Floyd Barnum), Warden; John A. Pettett, R. S. N. G.; Mrs. Emma Chamberlin, L. S. N. G.; William J. Taylor, Inside Guardian; Joseph K. Buffham, Outside Guardian; John Geis, Chaplain; Miss Pauline E. Fox, R. S. V. G.; Miss Estella Baker, L. S. V. G.

The Lodge started out with twenty-four members, nine of whom are still in active membership. There have been 133 initiated. There have been five deaths, thirteen withdrawals by card, thirty-one dropped for non-payment of dues, and at the present time there is an active membership of eighty-four. The officers for the term ending Dec. 31st, 1907, are as follows:

Miss Anna Taylor, Noble Grand; Mrs. Marie Fox, Vice Grand; Mrs. Maud Wilkinson, P. N. G., Secretary; Miss Constance Taylor, Treasurer and Representative; Miss Agnes Knudsen, P. N. G., Right Supporter N. G.; Miss Jane Carthy, P. N. G., Left Supporter N. G.; Miss Matilda Pettett, P. N. G., Right Supporter V. G.; Mrs. Etta Brown, P. N. G., Left Supporter V. G.; Mrs. Christine Rosendall, Warden; Mrs. Rebecca Reeder, Conductor; Miss Estella Baker, Chaplain; Miss Alice Tambling, I. G.; Miss Louise Tambling, Organist.

The Daughters of Rebekah have had a very valuable influence upon the social life of the village and have taken an active part in its development. The principles of the Order encourage this and the members have taken an active part in this phase of the work, thus materially assisting in its steady growth along all [l]ines.

As a result of the work of these,

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and other, organizations, in connection with ethers which are not secret, the social life of the village has been rapidly developed, and now we have it in all its varied forms and always in the latest style. From a social point of view Dwight is a bright and busy town, for there is "something going on" all the time. Naturally, there are cliques and "sets" as in other places, and amongst them all there is something on the way every week in the year. Dwight people dress better, live better and have more of the pleasures and joys of society than residents in most villages have, and they are fully equal to the occasion. This being the case, it follows that Dwight is an ideal place in which to live. When a man contemplates moving to another place he enquires into its facilities for affording him happiness, as well as other things that are necessary to life. When he comes to examine the question in Dwight he will find a well organized society which is fully equal to that found in the large cities; he will find beautiful homes, well dressed citizens, an orderly community, and all the little pleasures and amusements which belong to society. So that, from this point of view, he will find this a desirable place in which to live. And this is not the result of one man's or woman's work; it is the gradual growth in this department of village life which has been made by the community as a whole in its upward progress.

One thing should be noted here. Our people have always had a liking for good speaking. The very best talent on the lecture platform has been welcomed here for many years past, and no speaker or preacher has been too good for the audience which greeted him. In fact, he had to give a good account of himself or he would be unmercifully criticised. The same is true of shows and exhibitions; Dwight people never cared for the cheap kind and gave unstinted praise to those which were meritorious. This deliberate, and natural, choice of the best indicates that good ideals formed the basis of our citizenship and that the law of growth was steadily maintained.

## CHAPTER X.

### Moral.

In the settlement of western towns there has usually been a preponderance of the element which is opposed to the recognized forms of law and order. This has been especially true in the organization of frontier towns and has come to be a recognized, though lamentable, fact which is well understood. But Dwight was not a frontier town and had none of the attractions of one. It was purely an agricultural town, established to supply the wants of the neighboring farming community. Hence, it drew to it men of a different class to that which seeks new places on the outskirts of civilization. Its first settlers were, as a rule, moral men who had the welfare of the community at heart and were in favor of the known forms of law and order. But as the village grew it naturally attracted business men of all kinds and among them was a class which did not belong to the strictly moral order. They were all "good fellows" and some of them were "prominent citizens" but they were in the zero class, from a moral standpoint. They often made a boast of their allegiance to law and order but their private lives did not sustain their public allegations. In some

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cases they made no pretense to have any respect for the conventions of society.

There were two classes in the community, that above referred to on the one hand and the religious element on the other, and the first class was in the majority. Frequently it made no secret of its antipathy to the religious element and lost no opportunity of pointing the finger of scorn at it. Once in awhile a church would have for its pastor a man who commanded their respect, at least. Such a man was Rev. M. M. Longley, often called "Father Longley", whose earnest piety, deep sincerity, cheerful disposition and unassumed comradeship won for him a place in the hearts of the people and the respect and friendship of all classes. But there were not many Longleys in the Dwight pulpits and the immoral element grew and gained power in the community. There were plenty of saloons in those days and most of them were of a vicious character. Gambling was of public notoriety, doping and slugging in saloons was of frequent occurrence, and all forms of vice flourished. Drunkenness on the streets was common and open profanity greeted the ears with too much frequency. Some of the saloons were notorious resorts at which brawls often took place. Some of the liquor sold must have been of doubtful quality as it seemed to have a very sudden effect on the consumer and to produce strange results. One saloonist, at least, was credited with manufacturing his own whiskey on the most economical plan, using a liberal supply of water and certain drugs to make the combination. It is very certain that his particular brand of whiskey put his customers into first class condition to be relieved of their money. In this saloon card playing was openly indulged in. When a "sucker" was found he was invited to a "quiet little game" after dark. He was judiciously plied with the famous brand of whiskey and got into proper shape for "skinning". Confederates would play against him and quickly relieve him of his surplus cash. If he made any trouble he would be promptly knocked on the head with a billiard cue and thrown out into the street. Such proceedings were not uncommon and the place had an unsavory reputation which finally got so bad that the saloonist was persistently prosecuted until he was driven out of the business. Other saloons were bad enough and all did a thriving business. They had a steady patronage all day and business men often got well filled up before night. After the stores closed it was not considered safe for a woman to go down town without an escort, even then she was liable to see and hear many disagreeable, not to say disgusting, things. It was considered a fine thing to be an "all round sport" and take an active part in the so-called amusements of "the boys".

In those days vice was "in the saddle", and rode everything. It was on the crest of popular favor and extended to many questionable transactions. It was considered "good form" to beat a man out of his money by any gambling trick known. There were magistrates and constables and law and order was publicly recognized, after a fashion. But the vicious element was in control and often subverted the demands of justice. As an instance of this it may be mentioned that sometimes a criminal would get away, with the connivance of lawyers

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and magistrate, for a consideration, but it would be done with a semblance of legality. This fact alone is an index to the moral aspect of the village at that time and for many years. Another instance may be mentioned in this place. It was customary for some of the village officers, lawyers and business men to get together about midnight and hold mock trials in the town house. The night marshal was instructed to round up some tramps for the purpose. The mock court would spend the evening in a saloon getting "loaded up" for the arduous duties before it. Early in the morning the trials would take place and the poor, unfortunate tramps scared and harassed by the proceedings. It was said that this plan finally kept tramps away from Dwight, but it was clearly illegal. It shows the moral aspect of the place that men of such position in the community should do such things and do them while under the influence of liquor. After the trials the members of the "court" would go back to a saloon to have another carouse, all in direct violation of law, and some of the party being members of the village board.

The religious element got scant courtesy from a large section of the business men and community, who were patrons of the saloon, many of them liberal patrons, and indulged in many forms of vice, with an utter contempt for the feelings and wishes of the better element of society. The regular organizations which should have acted as a check on this state of things and made vice obnoxious and unpopular were not successful in making any serious headway against it. Practically all they could do was to hold their own, gathering small accessions of strength from time to time. Those were dark days for Dwight, from a moral viewpoint, and many good men and women mourned over the outlook. It is true that a large volume of business was

transacted here, but it was the natural accretion of trade which was due the village in the ordinary course of events. The fact that Dwight was "a wide open town" did not draw any good trade to it and was always a serious detriment. A large part of the money which was put into circulation here in the regular course of business finally found its way to the saloons and the money thus wasted was taken from the legitimate avenues of business and Dwight was the loser in the long run. Some of the money was recklessly squandered in other places and Dwight got no benefit from it whatever. As an illustration of this wastefulness and withdrawal of money from its proper uses we may cite the case of a certain firm of clothing merchants which voted for license up to the time that temperance finally won out. After a year of practical temperance one of the members of this firm told the writer that the firm would vote for temperance in future. He said that whereas young men had been in the habit of buying ready made clothes they were then buying custom made garments, and that they were doing more cash business than ever before. They were reaping the benefits of temperance and would vote for it in the future. In the dark days referred to there was a good deal of poverty here in spite of the large amount of business done. This was to be expected, because, as we have already pointed out, the money was diverted from its proper channels and went to

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the saloon element and its allies.

During these years the churches, aided by the more decent class of citizens, made several efforts to change the condition of affairs by closing up the saloons. It was supposed that the saloons were the greatest curse of the village and the origin of all its vicious tendencies and so it was thought that if they could be closed up there would be a great change in the conduct of the citizens. Of course, this was not strictly the case. The closing of the saloons would terminate an open exhibition of shame and deprive their votaries of an easy method of getting their drinks, but it would not change the feelings and passions of those who frequented such places. You can not make a man sober by law. You may make it difficult for a man to obtain liquor, by legal enactment, but you can not thus take away his desire for liquor. If the drink habit is merely a vice it may be checked by prohibition, but when it is a disease it is well known that prohibition is a failure. If the unfortunate victim can not get his liquor one way he will another, and having to buy it in quantities he is liable to drink more than his usual allowance. The result has often been that during a temperance year there has been more drunkenness than was looked for. It was to be accounted for from the fact that the diseased toper went beyond his usual limits, and from the further fact that many irresponsible young men would get kegs of beer and show their contempt for law, order and decency by getting together and having a regular spree.

It is very clear that in order to have practical temperance in a town there must be a temperance sentiment which justifies it. This can not be accomplished by law but is wholly the province of education. The teachers of the community are responsible for this. The preachers are naturally expected to do their part, and in order to accomplish good results it is necessary that wise discretion be used in their efforts in this direction. Diplomacy, tact, skill and courage are needed and must be employed. Sometimes a grievous mistake is made and much harm done by injudicious speeches and acts. But when the preacher uses his gifts properly he may achieve splendid results. The school teachers are also responsible. It is a mistake to suppose that the teacher need only look after the literary education of the children. Every school now teaches deportment and we have the physiological text books also for their guidance. But there should always be character back of the teaching and children should learn to respect law, order and decency because they know it is in harmony with the principles and teaching of those who have them in charge. Perhaps a still greater responsibility rests upon the parents. It is in the home that the greatest good can be done. If the parents habitually teach their children by example and precept they will accomplish far more than the other two classes of teachers put together. But where the majority in a village is opposed to good morals it is necessarily slow work with the children and hence all forms must be regularly employed to raise the temperance sentiment among the people. Until there is a genuine, preponderating sentiment of this character it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to make any headway against the liquor traffic. The early pioneers in this work, however, seemed to think that

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a long step forward would be taken if the saloons could be abolished. At one time the only question before the people was that of high or low license, but gradually the issue simmered down to license or no-license

and both parties put forth their best efforts to win. Some victories were won at the polls but they were empty victories as the new board was not able to make any headway against the prevailing feeling in favor of saloons. Some of these elections were conducted by the temperance people with a distinct view to winning, regardless of methods. Upon one occasion, at least, we remember how "the gravel train" was prevented from voting. The issue was always close and everything was supposed to be fair in politics. But it is not surprising that results so achieved were not productive of real benefit to the town. As we have already said, there must be a genuine sentiment in favor of prohibition and it must be in a substantial majority. When this is the case there is no trouble in enforcing the laws and it is possible to make men observe the decencies of life. It took a long time to reach even the semblance of this and the first substantial victory for temperance was in 1879, when the party was successful at the polls. The new Board did good work in many directions but the temperance idea was not yet sufficiently developed to insure permanency. At the next election the liquor interests won and the outlook was again dark for those who looked for the regeneration of the village. It was only temporary, however. The real temperance sentiment was steadily growing and gaining strength for the final overthrow of the saloon. At the next election, in 1881, a temperance board was elected and success was at last the reward of those who had so long and patiently struggled for it. The affairs of the village were handled in a first class manner and violators of law were severely punished. The saloon keepers held on for awhile for a reversal of the popular verdict and more or less liquor was sold here in a quiet way. But the saloonists soon found it to their interest to give up business entirely and even the "blind pigs" retired from active work, two of them making a lengthy sojourn in the county jail.

From 1881 to 1905 temperance reigned supreme in Dwight and not only were saloons barred out and kept from doing business in any form, but it was also found possible to stop the sale of liquor in any form. The friends of temperance gained all that could be gained by the closing of the saloons and the village soon became noted for its orderly behavior and law respecting qualities. In 1905 it went back again and the no-license people gained the victory. They held it for two years and Dwight once more had saloons. But it must be noted that the saloons were of a very different class to those which formerly made the town hideous. They were conducted in an orderly manner and open violations of law were infrequent.

It must not be supposed that this no-license victory was due to a lowering of the moral tone of the village; it was due wholly to factional strife in the temperance party. Or rather, it may be said to be due to the absurd desire of certain persons to rule or ruin in the town. For the time being it spelt ruin for temperance. At the election of 1907, however, one of the principal parties in dispute went

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into the fight to win for the homes of the people, regardless of personal feeling. The result was a complete victory for temperance in 1907, in harmony with the wishes of the people.

It has been well said that law is an educator and that laws are passed in advance of popular opinion, the people growing up to them. In this respect the prohibition law of Dwight has been an educator, and through the years has done much to bring the people up to the manifold advantages which it offers. But there were reasons for the passage of this law, for the victory of 1881. and succeeding years, and it is our purpose to point them out to our readers.

If nothing had happened out of the ordinary and Dwight had gone on its way as it had been doing for many years, it is safe to say that its moral condition would not have improved. It might have got worse. As we have before remarked, the regular organizations having the moral welfare of the town at heart were not making much headway, and improvement seemed far off. But something out of the ordinary happened and the results were far reaching, indeed they can never be measured in this world.

The first was a revival of religion in 1876. It was in the winter, the services being held in the Methodist church, under the leadership of Rev. Charles M. Morton, Secretary of the State Y. M. C. A. The Rev. M. V. B. Havermale was pastor of the Methodist church, Rev. M. M. Longley of the Congregational church and Rev. C. H. DeLong of the Presbyterian church. These churches joined in this revival work, which was kept up for nine weeks. It is not too much to say that it produced a great change in the affairs of the village. We have no statistics at hand as to the number of conversions but we know that a large number of people were converted during these meetings, a great many of them being adults.

The results of this revival can never be made up in this world. Men who were converted then are still in active church work and have given their energies to the welfare of their fellows for many years. That revival

gave an impetus to religious life and gave the religionists a better place in the community than they had ever had before. It became actually respectable to belong to a church and the influence of this feeling had a marked effect upon the people at large. It did not show its full strength all at once but gradually grew in force and power. The faithful historian must accord first place to this great revival in estimating the factors which have made for the moral regeneration of the town.

The next event was the wonderful Red Ribbon movement which swept over the land in 1878. It was everywhere. Clubs were being formed in cities, villages and hamlets and public speakers were nightly extolling the virtues of temperance and exposing the horrors of intemperance. Dwight was caught on the wave of public feeling and a Red Ribbon Club was formed here. Over 800 signed the temperance pledge. Of course many of these were old temperance people but quite a large number had been reckoned among "the boys" and were considered as "brands plucked from the burning." The Club made rapid headway. A clubroom was secured and weekly meetings were held which were of profit from an educational point of view, and which soon became society functions and were patronized

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by our best citizens. The Club did a vast amount of good work and its influence was in favor of the suppression of the liquor traffic. Back of this Red Ribbon movement was the results of the revival of two years previous and hence it became an important factor in moulding the moral tone of the town. The next year the saloons were closed and have only been opened once, the following year, till 1905, as we have already narrated.

The closing of the saloons then, was only part of the work of reform, and was preceded by the two revivals of religion and temperance. These two revivals may be said to be the prime factors in the elevation of the morals of the village. And it is fortunate, if not Providential, that the revival of religion came first. This established men and women in the very groundwork of morality and in the following two years they became settled and strengthened in their religious beliefs. It was at this juncture that the temperance revival was inaugurated and found its strongest supporters in those who had previously been established in the Christian faith. The result was inevitable. The saloon had to go, the morals of the people underwent a great improvement, and the village became widely known for, its good character.

We do not pretend to say that the whole work was done by the Christian element because there have always been men in our village who make no pretensions to religion, yet who are strong temperance men and bold morality in high esteem. These men have always given their time, energy and money to the good cause and great credit is due them. Many who read these pages will readily call to mind some of these men and will remember the great good which they have accomplished in the interests of the village.

There have been other contributing causes leading to the elevation of the moral tone but we think we have accurately stated the case when we attribute the chief influence to the two great revivals already mentioned. Since that time a vast improvement has gone steadily forward. Today drunkenness is a rarity on the streets, brawling profanity is seldom heard, open vice is unknown and vice itself slinks into the dark where it belongs. There is a better respect for law and order and decency, a greater reverence for womanhood and a clearer conception of civic duties and responsibilities than was ever known here before. And the sentiment is growing. The children are not confronted with open exhibitions of shame. It is not respectable to violate law in any form. Wrongdoing is swiftly punished. The rights of the people are held sacred and men vie with one another in the protection of our homes and families. This is a marked contrast to the years which we depicted at the opening of this chapter and tells its own story. It was not accomplished in a year, neither was it the work of one man. It took time and many men and women to bring about this very desirable order of things which is now the glorious heritage of the rising generation. And that it may be perpetuated and enlarged the children must be adequately trained to take up the burden of citizenship on the authorized basis of good law, good morals and good government.

The following is a correct list of the village officers from 1869 to the present time and is published for the first time. It will be useful for ref-

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erence and will also be a profitable study for those interested in such matters. As far as possible we also give the votes on the unsuccessful candidates.

1869 - No License - J. G. Strong, Pres.; W. A. Mott, J. M. Smith, Simon Wait, G. Z. Flagler, Henry Eldredge; L. G. Pearre, Clerk.

1870 - License - C. S. Newell, Pres. 121, J. H. Hagerty 120, L. F. Slyder 118, R. C. Adams 120, G. M. Hahn 119, W. S. Sims 160; L. G. Pearre, Clerk; O. W. Pollard 27, O. Potter 26, Henry Flaherty 27, J. B. Parsons 26, N. Burnham 26, D. McWilliams 25, J. C. Cook 1.

1871 - License- C. S. Newell, Pres. 92, J. H. Hagerty 82, W. S. Sims 160, E. R. Stevens 91, G. M. Hahn 92, Daniel Smith 87, L. F. Slyder, Clerk. O. W. Pollard 81, D. McWilliams 78, O. Potter 80, J. C. Hetzel 80, J. B. Parsons 79.

1872 - License - C. S. Newell, Pres. 116, G. M. Hahn 117, W. S. Sims 124, J. H. Hagerty 118, Daniel Smith 115, E. R. Stevens 119; C. L. Palmer, Clerk. C. J. Judd 50, A. Brubaker 48, Jesse Diffenbaugh 49, Wm. Walker 47, D. McWilliams 41, Hugh Thompson 47.

1873 - License - W. S. Sims, Pres., E. R. Stevens, R. C. Adams, H. Thompson, N. Riggs, John Stafford; C. L. Palmer, Clerk. There was no contest this year, only one ticket being in the field. The average vote was 166.

1874 - No-License - O. W. Pollard, Pres. 130, O. Slocum 131, Timothy Driscoll 125, Hugh Thompson 130, I. H. Baker 122, J. J. Gore 127, Willis Finch, Clerk 121.

1875 - License - Eugene Baker, Pres. 179, E. R. Stevens 179, R. C. Adams 179, Benj. Wait 102, Horace Cadwallader 178, Alex. McKay 136; C. M. Baker, Clerk.

1876 - License - Eugene Baker, Pres. 168, E. R. Stevens 169, A. McKay 174, W. H. Ketcham 174, R. C. Adams 151, Wm. Walker 103, B. Wait 92, O. Slocum 47; C. M. Baker, Clerk.

1877 - High License - Eugene Baker, Pres. 184, A. McKay 243, W. H. Ketcham 179, Henry Fox 164, O. Slocum 177, Chas. Crandall 175, Dan Smith 63, John Stafford 65, R. C. Adams 71, J. J. Goodman 65, John Murphy 70; C. M. Baker, Clerk, 116.

1878 - License - John Thompson, Pres. 133, R. C. Adams 136, J. C. George 166, E. R. Stevens 132, W. H. Ketcham 94, Wm. Walker 120; C. M. Baker, Clerk, 172. Also ran - J. M. Baker 52, A. Brubaker 59, J. H. Coe 51, Jesse Deffenbaugh 32, Wm. Douglas 82, John Little 24, D. McWilliams 57, J. B. Parsons 54, R. Roe 29, Hugh Thompson 62, Jared Williams 39, O. Slocum 1, A. McKay 2, H. Eldredge 1, H. Seigert 1.

1879 - No-License - D. McWilliams, Pres. 154, J. Tierney 156, H. Thompson 157, J. C. Hetzel 151, S. Eldredge 152, A. McKay, 156, J. G. Strong, Clerk. John Thompson 108, J. C. George 109, Wm. Douglas 107, Wm. Walker 112, J. C. Lewis 101, W. H. Ketcham 96.

1880 - License - Henry Fox, Pres. 133, John Geis 133, Wm. Douglas 137, G. Z. Flagler 138, Oren Gould 137, Wm. Walker 134, C. M. Baker, Clerk. H. Thompson 126, A. McKay 124, D. McWilliams 121, J. C. Hetzel 123, A. M. deClerqc 130, J. B. Parsons 124.

1881 - No-License - Trustees - O. W. Pollard 138, H. Eldredge 141, DeWitt Scutt 138, Jas. B. Parsons 135, Chas. Waters 98, Jared Williams 100, John. Little 98, Oren Gould 102. Clerk - C. J. Judd 126, C. M. Baker 111, George

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Baker 1. Police Magistrate - W. H. Ketcham 79, Jas. McIllduff 99, Hugh Thompson 62.

1882 - No-License - Trustees - Richard P. Morgan, Jr., 140, Curtis J. Judd 138, Isaac H. Baker 133; A. E.

Gould 113, Geo. Z. Flagler 109, William Walker 108, P. Payne 2, J. Paul 2. Clerk - Hugh Thompson 136, Eugene Flagler 110, Alvi Barnum 2.

1883 - No-License - Trustees - Hugh Thompson 101, John J. Gore 100, DeWitt Scutt 97, C. D. Chalfant 101, Joe Miller 99, Wm. Eaton 99. Clerk - H. J. Deffenbaugh 101, Frank Bell 97.

1884 - No-License - Trustees - C. J. Judd 130, C. M. Baker 127, Ed McWilliams 126, O. W. Pollard 129, J. B. Parsons 126, Jas. McIllduff 101, J. C. Lewis 101, Adam Dernbach 98, Peter Ackerman 97, Chas. Waters 99. Clerk - C. L. Palmer 124, Frank Bell 103.

1885 - No-License - Trustees - O. W. Pollard 138, A. Brubaker 139, R. P. Morgan 122, Jas. McIllduff 110, C. H. Crandall 107, Eugene Flagler 109. Clerk - C. L. Palmer 127, R. F. Doherty 116. Police Magistrate - S. Eldredge 136, Jno. Koehler 104.

1886 - No-License - Trustees - E. T. Miller 133, John Leach 129, F. W. Ford 134, John Geis 105, John Dennehee 104, Chas. Waters 103. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 129, Jas. Kelagher 108. Police Magistrate - John Thompson 127, Jas. McIllduff 105.

1887 - No-License - Trustees - A. Brubaker 108, J. A. Spencer 110, C. M. Baker 111, John Geis 108, John Dennehee 109, Geo. N. Flagler 113. Clerk - John H. Smith 115, Jas. Kelagher 105.

1888 - No-License - President Village Board - Curtis J. Judd 126, Eugene Flagler 122. Trustees - John Dennehee 123, Chas. Crandall 125, John Geis 121, Jesse Deffenbaugh 126, W. H. Taylor 125, D. B. Stevens 126. Clerk - J. C. Buchanan 119, L. A. Naffziger 135.

1889 - No-License - President - Curtis J. Judd 141, Eugene Flagler 123. Trustees - Jens Knudsen 142, F. A. Lakin 138, L. H. Martin 139, Jared Williams 130, John Geis 131, Wm. Walker 129. Clerk - L. A. Naffziger 133, L. D. Plummer 136.

1890 - No-License - President - C. J. Judd 168, John Geis 117. Trustees - Jesse Deffenbaugh 168, J. B. Bell 172, Samuel Lower 168, Ed. Dittus 112, Dan Morris 113, H. E. Seigert 113. Clerk - Andrew Doherty 173, George Kern 110. Police Magistrate - John Thompson 179, Wm. Walker 106.

1891 - No-License - President - John Thompson 90, D. McWilliams 2, Jesse Slyder 1. Clerk - Andrew T. Doherty 96. Trustees - W. H. Taylor 97, D. B. Stevens 97, John Leach 97.

1892 - No-License - President - Chas. L. Romberger 279, Henry Fox 108. Trustees - B. A. Buck 245, John Geis 249, Geo. N. Flagler 273, James Kelagher 123, John Stewart 100, E. T. Miller 98. Clerk - F. A. Haise 275, Henry T. McLane 109.

1893 - No-License - President - Henry Fox 205, Chas. L. Romberger, 193 Trustees - D. B. Stevens 205, R. H. Mills 204, Geo. S. Baker 199, J. W. Sargent 175, A. M. Bartholic 180, E. P. Hahn 181. Clerk - F. A. Haise 211, Geo. L. Kern 179.

1894 - No-License - Pres. - Frank A. Haise 223, Henry Fox 203. Trustees - Eugene Flagler 221, John Geis 197, L. A. Naffziger 229, Samuel B. McLane 205, Edward Hahn 184, M. C. Starrett 190. Clerk - F. L. Smith 220, Henry T. McLane 202. Police Magistrate - John Thompson 243, Samuel Lower 179.

1895 - No-License - Pres. - Frank A. Haise 265, Chas. Crandall 106. Trustees - W. C. Bartholic 233, Dwight C. Morgan 215, D. B. Stevens 216, Peter Hansen 102, A. M. Bartholic 101, Chas. Waters 90, Wm. Thornton 1, David Slyder 1, V. S. Wright 94, H. Cornell 1, W. H. Doty 1, John Dennehee 1. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 249, E. T. Miller 118.

1896 - No-License - Pres. - W. H. Ketcham 232, H. Fox 194. Trustees - H. F. Adams 257, S. B. McLane 211, John Stewart 229, Edward Hahn 188, W. L. Rabe 173, George Orr 170. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 265, D. F. Charlton 1.

1897 - No-License - President - J. R. Oughton 265, H. Fox 224. Trustees - Joe Miller 262, Jens Knudsen 290, C. V. Bower 264, J. B. France 225, Fred W. Emery 197, N. N. Mickleson 204. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 265, E. T. Miller 197.

1898 - No-License - President - J. R. Oughton 133. Trustees - H. F. Adams 132, John Stewart 128, R. D. Gregg 137. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 133. Police Magistrate - Hugh Thompson 134.

1899 - No-License - President - J. R. Oughton 192, W. H. Ketcham 23. Trustees - L. H. Martin 205, John Geis, 208, C. V. Bower 203. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 205.

1900 - No-License - President - J. R. Oughton 275, F. J. Vickery 196. Trustees - H. F. Adams 204, R. D. Gregg 219, L. J. Trunnel 198, W. T. Scott 232, Simon Klitz 241, Knight Pearre 236, W. H. Doty 195, W. H. Ketcham 257. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 264.

1901 - NoLicense - President - J. R. Oughton. Trustees - John Geis, Simon Sondergaard and L. H. Martin. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker.

1902 - No-License - President - B. A. Buck 166,, W. H. Ketcham 57. Trustees - S. P. Klitz 169, C. C. Adams 166, R. D. Gregg 177, James Kelagher 40, W. D. Roeder 37, Chas. Crandall 37, scattering 6. Police Magistrate - John Thompson 20, C. E. Crandall 24, C. G. Barr 25, scattering 11. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 196, C. E. Crandall 2.

1903 - No-License - President - B. A. Buck 286, James Kelagher 268. Trustees - John Geis, 290, Simon Sondergaard 287, Theo. J. Hayes 288, Chas. Waters 256, M. Gordon 255, W. D. Roeder 256. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 290, C. E. Crandall 258.

1904 - No-License - Trustees - R. D. Gregg 275, Simon P. Klitz 274, C. C. Adams 267, Chas. Waters 259, W. D. Roeder 252, Geo. L. Taylor 252. Clerk - Geo. S. Baker 277, C. E. Crandall 250.

1905 - License - Edw. Reeb 279, Chas. Waters 284, Nick Swanson 283. No-License - Austin Gibbons 261, Roger H. Mills 255, Jens A. Smith 248, Prohibition - Chas. Merrit 49, Roy M. Baker 53, John Stewart 49. For one year - G. L. Hahn 280, Chas. Patterson 241, John J. Doherty 65.

1906 - License - Edward Chalmers 310, John B. Hayes 309, Paul Klitz 307, C. M. Baker 250, W. E. Thompson 250, S. P. Klitz 256, Clyde H. Thompson, Clerk, 316.

1907 - No-License - T. J. Hayes, Pres. 305, Jens J. Knudsen 299, John Geis 298, Geo. L. Kern 290, F. J. Vickery 287, Chas. Waters 286, W. D. Roeder 281, Jas. Kelagher 286, Edw. Reeb 1.

## CHAPTER XI. Educational.

From the very beginning Dwight has had literary tendencies. Some of its earliest settlers were men who had received the education of the day and appreciated its advantages. But very little was done toward developing the educational interests for several

There was plenty of hard work and not much time or opportunity for cultivating learning. The town was no worse than others in this respect, and vastly better than most.

The first school house, a small building, 16x24, was put up in the fall of 1855, soon after Dr. Hagerty moved here, and was largely due to his efforts and others who aided him in the movement for a school house. The doctor was an educated man with considerable literary ability and he saw the necessity for providing adequate school facilities for the children of the growing town. This building cost \$275, and for nearly three years it served as a school house, public hall and also as a church. It was evidently very much needed in the place and the fact of its threefold use shows the dawning of the educational interests of the town.

From this time there was a gradual growth of literary development along all lines which has always been in advance of towns of similar size and which has resulted in a far higher standard here today than can be found in towns of the same size, as a general rule. We are accustomed to boast that our people are more metropolitan than provincial, that we have a higher order of culture and that all classes are well posted on the literature of the day. It is quite true that this is the case to a large extent, and to a more general extent than is usually found in small country towns. Our literary growth has kept pace with the growth in other directions and speaks well for our citizens.

We find that there are many reasons for this. It can not be said that it is due to any one thing, but to many. A careful review will show us that different causes have operated to bring about this result and that our people have availed themselves of every avenue that led to a higher development of intellectual culture.

When we speak of education it is customary to suppose that the public schools are referred to, but this is a mistake. The schools are only a branch and do not represent the completed work. The story is told of a college graduate who threw his sheepskin down and exclaimed, "There, thank goodness, my education's finished at last". But he was wrong; it had only just begun. If, indeed, he made that the end, he was a very unfortunate and mistaken man. The school lays the foundation, but the superstructure must be carefully and wisely built up as the years pass away.

While the present high development of culture in Dwight owes much to the public schools it must be recognized that many other things helped largely to bring about the desired result. We will consider these in their place and thus endeavor to give the reader an intelligent view of the situation from a historical standpoint.

As the schools have done an important work we will speak of them first. We have already referred to the building of the first school house at a cost of \$275. That was in 1855. In this year of 1908 we have about \$50,000 worth of school property. We have two houses, the new high school built in 1896 costing \$30,000. These figures tell their own story. At the present time the schools have a reference and circulating library of 1200 volumes which has been carefully selected and is strictly up-to-date in every particular. The equipment for

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scientific work is of a high grade and contains more than a thousand geological specimens which were mainly the gift of Dwight C. Morgan. Graduates from the high school are admitted to the freshman class of the leading universities of the state without examination, a fact which speaks volumes for the management of the schools. The enrollment averages about 400; in the High School from 75 to 80. Looking at it from a material point of view it will be seen that the schools of our town have made wonderful progress since that first little house was built, and it is conceded that our buildings and equipment are equal to those of many larger places and are an evidence of the progress of the town.

We do not know what was taught in that original school house but it must have been of a very rudimentary character. The three R's probably received the most attention and we may be sure that the whole school work was of a primitive character. Facilities were lacking in those days and money not very plentiful. They did the best they could, no doubt, and they did well, for they laid the foundation for the splendid work of these later days. In contrast with that early effort we give the curriculum of the High School in use at the present time, and think it compares favorably with any similar institution of learning.

Professor Anthony Middleton is principal this year and is doing excellent work in all departments. This curriculum was prepared by him and is an indication of the work he is doing:

Courses of study for High School.



### Latin Course.

First Year - 1st Semester - English, Algebra, Latin, Physiology. 2nd Semester - English, Algebra, Latin, Physical Geography.

Second Year - 1st Semester - English, Geometry, Latin (Caesar), Mediaeval History. 2nd Semester - English, Geometry, Latin (Caesar), Modern History.

Third Year - 1st Semester - English, Solid Geometry, Latin (Cicero), English History. 2nd Semester - English, Advanced Algebra, Latin (Cicero), American History.

Fourth Year - 1st Semester - English, Physics, Latin (Virgil), Civics. 2nd Semester - English, Physics, Latin (Virgil), Economics.

### Latin-German Course.

First year - 1st Semester - English, Latin, Algebra, Physiology. 2nd Semester - English, Latin, Algebra, Physical Geography.

Second Year - 1st Semester - English, Geometry, Latin (Caesar), Mediaeval History. 2nd Semester - English, Geometry, Latin (Caesar), Modern History.

Third Year - 1st Semester - Latin (Cicero), German, Solid Geometry, English History. 2nd Semester - Latin (Cicero), American History, Advanced Algebra, German.

Fourth Year - 1st Semester - English, German, Latin (Virgil), Physics. 2nd Semester - English, German, Latin (Virgil), Physics.

### English Course.

First Year - 1st Semester - English, Algebra. Elect two - Greek History, Physiology, Commercial Arithmetic. 2nd Semester - English, Algebra. Elect two - Roman History, Physical Geography, Bookkeeping.

Second Year - 1st Semester - English, Geometry, Mediaeval History, Zoology. 2nd Semester - English, Geometry, Modern History, Botany.

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Third Year - 1st Semester - English History, Solid Geometry, Chemistry. 2nd Semester - English, American History, Advanced Algebra, Chemistry.

Fourth Year - 1st Semester - Physics. Elect two - Civics, Geology, Reviews. 2nd Semester - English, Physics. Elect two - Economics, Astronomy, Reviews.

Requirements for graduation:

Three courses are offered - English, Latin and Latin-German - and a diploma will be given for the successful completion of any one of them.

Each pupil upon his admission to the high school is required, by and with the advice of his parent or guardian, to elect one of the courses, but substitutions may be made from either of the others by permission of parent or guardian and Superintendent.

### Outline of Work.

#### Latin.

First Year - In the first year the pupils should master the declension, the conjugations and a vocabulary of at least a thousand words. Much attention should be given to pronunciation, word order, and translations into faultless English.

Second Year - Four books of Caesar's Gallic War. Latin Prose Composition one-fifth of the time.

Third Year - Cicero, six orations. Latin Prose Composition one-fifth of the time.

Fourth Year - Virgil, six books.

#### German.

First Year - The work of the first year consists of a thorough drill in grammar, with written and oral exercises. The reading of an easy text with daily conversation on the matter read. The memorizing of prose and poetry is an important part of the work.

Second Year - In the second year, a systematic study of the grammar will be continued in connection with German Classics for reading and translation.

Mathematics.

First Year - Algebra through quadratics.

Second Year - Plane Geometry. Many original demonstrations are required.

Third Year - The first half is given to Solid and Spherical Geometry, and in the second half the work of the first year in Algebra is reviewed and extended so as to include ratio, proportion, progressions, etc.

History - The course provides for three years' work in chronological order. This gives the pupil an opportunity to study the American History in the light of the national and institutional development of those nations that have contributed to the making of it. In the fourth year the historical work is continued in Civics and Economics.

Science - The limitations are such that the work in Geology and Astronomy is largely the study of a good text book, but for all the other sciences the equipment is fairly good, and each pupil does from one to five hours laboratory work per week, keeps note books giving plan and result of all experiments with drawings of apparatus used.

English.

First Year - Composition. Three recitations per week. This will include grammar, form work, and two short themes per week.

2. Classics - Two recitations per week.

Scott - Lady of the Lake. Cooper - Last of the Mohicans.

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Hawthorne - Tales of the White Hills.

Longfellow - Evangeline.

Scott - Ivanhoe.

Shakespeare - Merchant of Venice.

3. Outside Reading - About 1500 pages from a list of books prepared by superintendent or teacher. Oral reports required.

Second Year - Composition. Two to three recitations per week.

2. History of English Literature -

One recitation per week (2d semester).

3. Classics - Two to three recitations per week.

George Eliot - Silas Marner. Coleridge - Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

Addison - Sir Roger de Coverly Papers.

Tennyson - The Princess.

Irving - Life of Goldsmith.

Shakespeare - Julius Caesar.

4. Outside Reading - About 1500 pages with oral reports.

Third Year - Composition. One recitation per week.

2. History of English Literature - Two recitations per week (1st semester).

3. History of American Literature - Two recitations per week (2d semester).

4. Classics - Two recitations per week.

Milton - L'Allegro, Il Penseroso, Comus and Lycidas.

Burk - Conciliation with America.

Tennyson - Gareth and Lynette, Lancelot and Elaine and the Passing of Arthur.

Macaulay - Essay on Milton and Addison.

Shakespeare - Macbeth.

Macaulay - Life of Johnson.

Outside Reading - About 1000 pages with oral and written report.

Fourth Year - Composition. At least one-fifth of the time.

2. Study of narrative, lyric and dramatic poetry, (1st semester) as illustrated by selections below.

3. Study of the essay, oration and novel, (2d semester) as illustrated by selections below.

4. Classics.

Milton - Paradise Lost.

Scott - Marmion.  
Sophocles - Antigone.  
Shakespeare - Hamlet.  
Addison - Cato.  
Ten selected lyrics.  
Selected essays from Bacon, Macaulay, Lowell and Emerson.  
Webster - Bunker Hill Oration.  
Wendell Phillips - Two Selected Orations.  
Scott - Kenilworth.  
George Eliot - The Mill on the Floss.  
5. Outside Reading - About 1000 pages with written reports.

It should be noted that the schools did not show any great full strength and solidity until the village had reached its full majority. Good work had always been done, but it was under the administration of Jesse Hubbard, who served as Principal for five years, from 1878 to 1883, that the best work was done up to that time. He carried his high principles of honor and fidelity into his work, impressing teachers and scholars alike with the dignity and character of the work in which they were engaged. He graded the schools and adopted regular courses of study and started that library which now numbers 1200 volumes. He taught more than the lessons, for he inculcated strict obedience, integrity of character and the duties of life. Under his wise guidance the schools took on new work on a surer and sounder basis, and that

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work has gone steadily forward with incalculable results to all concerned.

Our public school system has been the target for many a hostile missile of late years. It has been subjected to severe criticism by its friends, for it is absurd to suppose that any one could be its enemy. Complaint has been made that too many ologies are taught and that the scholars are compelled to go through a mass of stuff that will be of no benefit to them in later life. Then, it is also claimed that students are "crammed" so rapidly that it has a deteriorating effect on both mind and body. A still further objection is that teachers lack initiative and are too much the creatures of a system which robs them of individuality and compels them to live in a regular routine which is detrimental to their success in life. We do not pretend to discuss these matters as they may relate to city schools, but we feel sure that they have no weight in our own locality. We have never heard of any complaints from the teachers as to their work, and the fact that some of them have spent many years in it and still find pleasure in it is an indication that they are satisfied and the public is pleased with their labors. The fact that some children can not stand the pace is simply an evidence that they are not physically or mentally equal to the task and should receive extra help to enable them to keep up with their studies.

So much has been said about the variety of subjects taught, that we feel justified in saying that our local schools have never transgressed in this regard, but have always maintained a first class course of study. It is very easy to find fault, and it is common for people who do not think to pass criticism on the work of those who do. Some people have an idea that only such things should be taught as will avail in the making of money in the future. Such people regard the accumulation of wealth as the first object in life. If a study will not help their boy to make money they see no use in his taking it. It is well for this town and this country that our educators have been more far seeing than that. In the school should be laid the foundation for the future life, and no man can tell what that life will be. The child must be armed at all points and his mind so thoroughly prepared and stored that he will be able to take his place in the world's work without fear or shame. This is what the school is for, this is what it accomplishes, not by a limited course of study but by reaching out the wide world over and bringing from the storehouses of the ages the wealth of learning which awaits the student of today.

The captains of industry are now calling for trained men to do their best work. The civil service examinations cover a wide field of knowledge, and even the poor politician can no longer secure a consulate unless he first passes a thorough examination and takes a preparatory course of instruction. If the boys of today are to occupy the places of tomorrow with credit to themselves and benefit to the world their education must not be limited but must take a wide range; it will be difficult for them to learn too much. After all, the work of the

school is largely in the way of training. The scholar may forget the rules he learned so laboriously but he will not forget the habit and the necessity of learning. When he goes out into the world he will be

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able to assimilate knowledge, to make it his own. He will have the faculty of looking things up, of investigating and acquiring information in many ways. And so his education will never be completed for he will be always learning, and the more he knows the more he will want to know. He will have forgotten most of the lessons he learned at school and yet it was the school which made him what he is. We know this to be true of our schools and we can name many men who went out from here to win distinction in the world in many different lines, showing the value of their early education in the Dwight schools.

The influence of this institution on the literary development of the town is hard, if not impossible, to estimate. There can be no doubt as to its value. Children have been taught to love books and to enjoy reading. Parents have been brought into contact with literature through their children's studies and books have been bought and read which might otherwise have been unheard of. As the children grew into manhood and womanhood they carried forward their love of literature, in the majority of cases, and so the good work was brought steadily forward and made its mark unconsciously on the community. So, to the public schools of Dwight we must accord first place in reviewing the literary development of our town.

The rapid growth of newspapers and magazines of late years has had its influence upon our people. They were always eager to know what was going on outside the town and the daily paper, the weekly, and the magazine have ben [sic.] freely circulated. The character of this reading matter has slowly but surely changed for the better from year to year and now the best quality finds a ready sale here. This indicates a generous growth.

Then came the formation of libraries. No home was too poor to have a few books but a few was not sufficient for the average progressive citizen. Not only did the much maligned book agent do us a good service when he brought standard literature to our doors and induced people to buy his wares, but he did a still better service in teaching the love of reading and the value of book knowledge. A man was not content to have a small library of books but he wanted them to be good books. He was anxious that his neighbors should not consider him a frivolous man and his library, large or small, was apt to be a good index to the man himself. It is an old saying that a man may be known by the company he keeps, and it is almost equally true that a man or woman may be known by the kind of books they read. If they do not read any at all, why then - er - well, let it pass. Dwight people read books and we are proud of it. We know there are many good libraries in Dwight which show the tastes and culture of their owners.

In this place it will be well to mention that we have no public library, which is a very regrettable fact. A town of this size ought to have one, as it presents facilities for the acquisition of information which few possess. Under the state law it is possible for us to have such a library and about a year ago an effort was made to secure one under the law, but it was voted down at the polls. As the majority against it was only five it is evident that the proposition could easily be carried if the matter should be taken up and pushed. We hope all good citizens will join in this

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matter. It is not a plan to boom anybody or give any one an undue advantage, but it is a plan for the education of the children and the adults of the town. It should meet with the hearty support of every one and we hope that this year it will be adopted.

Lectures have always been well attended here. Regular courses have been given in the winter months and the best talent has been found none too good for Dwight. Some of the greatest orators on the platform have visited our town and they have always spoken highly of the character of the Dwight audiences. We have had the pleasure of talking with some of these gentlemen after their lectures and we can testify that they had a high appreciation of the culture of our people. A public speaker soon becomes a good judge of his audience. A poor speaker might get a good house once on the strength of his advertising, but he could not get another one. There was always a real desire to hear first class speaking. This was also true of political speakers and it has been found good policy to send able spellbinders to our town. And a really popular preacher has never wanted an audience in Dwight.

Societies of various kinds have contributed to the intellectual growth of the town in no small degree. Notes

have been compared by the members and new ideas have been passed from one to the other. Music has been freely encouraged and many bright musicians have learned their first notes in Dwight.

Perhaps travel may be credited with a large share of the work of literary development here. Our proximity to Chicago has been in our favor and has been utilized to a larger extent than is usual with towns so near to a metropolis. Other places nearer to Chicago than we are have not made the same use of their advantages. Chicago has become so well known to our people that they feel as much at home there as they do here. They have caught on to the ways of the city and have adopted many city methods in the course of their visits. This has naturally led to a very perceptible growth along the lines of culture. Then again, some of our citizens have been world travelers, visiting foreign shores and some of them many and distant parts of this country. They who had this good fortune necessarily gained great educational advantages over their less fortunate fellows. But they brought their knowledge home and imparted it to their friends and it went upon its educational way from friend to friend. Travel not only broadens the mind's vision in itself but it leads to study. The observant traveler becomes a reader thus filling his mind with much useful information. It follows, naturally, that his information, in part at least, becomes an educational force which leads others to learn for themselves. Disraeli said that travel is the true source of all knowledge. This is placing too great an estimate upon it, perhaps, but it must be admitted that travel is a liberal education and confers inestimable privileges on those who avail themselves of it. And there can be no doubt that the town which has many travelers has greater facilities for intellectual development than its fellows. This town has ever kept in touch with the outside world and has sought to improve itself in harmony with the culture, intellect and refinement of larger places.

These are the principal factors which have helped to make Dwight

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reach such a prominent place in the literary world. Learning has been developed and is encouraged and is in marked contrast to the early days of the village.

Religion.

Among the earliest settlers there were men and women of religious character. They were in a hopeless minority, however, at that time and no attempt was made to introduce religious services into the town till 1855 when the first sermon was preached here. This was the beginning of that movement which has resulted in the church organizations which we have at the present time. The work was small in its inception because there were not many living here then and its progress was slow, partly for the reason that the growth of the town was not very rapid. But from the start the Christian religion did not make great progress and did not take a firm hold upon the community.

As a matter of fact the place grew in wickedness more rapidly than it did in religion and for a long period the latter was at a considerable discount. As the population grew it became evident that they who did not believe in religion were in control. They exercised a powerful influence in commercial, political and social life. As against this influence the church organizations could make little headway and it was not till the village had reached its majority that the first strong effort was made to give the Christian religion its proper place in the community. And here it becomes our duty to enquire into the causes for, or reasons why, this condition of affairs existed.

There are many reasons why the Christian religion made such slow progress in Dwight. Looking back over the past and taking into consideration things as we found, and as we knew, them we will give as the first cause the unfortunate distinctions of creed.

Religion is a general term and is applied to many forms of belief and worship, as the Hindu religion, the Mohammedan religion, and others. But when we speak of the Christian religion we mean that system which maintains a belief in Almighty God, His worship, obedience to His commands and will, and a faithful performance of all our duties towards Him. When Christ founded His church on earth it was one church, but since then a multitude of divisions has taken place and today we have a large number of denominations all claiming to be parts of the Christian church. The basis of difference was sometimes on the form of church government, but oftener on the interpretation of the Word of God as contained in the Bible, some affirming one class of doctrine and some another.

Men have an undoubted right to differ in opinion and in the readings and translations as well as in the

meaning of Divine teachings, but it should be noted that all these various sects hold practically together on the chief essentials as taught by Christ himself. But the differences led to the establishing of different denominations, each one professing to be a part of the Christian church, if not the church itself. These denominations have sometimes been compared to an army and it has been said in their defense that just as an army is made up of corps, battalions and regiments so the Christian church is necessarily made up of a large number of bodies. There is this difference, however. When the

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commander-in-chief of an army issues an order or a proclamation it is not open to question and must be literally obeyed by every member of the army. And the conduct of the various departments is placed in the hands of men who are responsible to the commander-in-chief and are held accountable to him. The denominations acknowledge their allegiance to one commander-in-chief, but each church places its own interpretation on his orders and the members are not held to a strict obedience to his commands. It is probably a good thing to have several branches of the Christian church, but it is manifestly a disastrous thing to have so many differences in creed.

In the first place it weakens the cause in a small town. There may be enough members to form one strong church which might accomplish great good through its strength. But when these are split up into several factions no one of them is able to make a compact fight against the forces of sin. Again, it weakens the cause financially. Together they might be able to build a good house of worship and employ first class talent to occupy the pulpit. Separately this cannot be done. But worse than all this, it places a stumbling block in the way of the man who does not believe in religion. Unacquainted with the reasons for differing, not having an intimate knowledge of the teachings of Scripture, he is apt to view with disfavor the differing sects. Years ago it was common for ministers to preach doctrinal sermons. The unbeliever would hear one statement at one church and a different one at another, and with his lack of knowledge he would be in a difficulty to decide as to which was right. Dwight, like other places, has always suffered on account of these differences of creed.

Another reason for the slow growth of the Christian religion in Dwight is found in the lack of funds to carry on the work. Even if there had been only one church organization here this would still have been a drawback. The complaint has often been made that a man can not go to church without having "a plate stuck under his nose." Solicitors for church funds have ungraciously been styled "beggars", and have not always been treated with politeness. It is astonishing that good business men who realize the value of money in carrying forward any enterprise should object [sic.] to a church obtaining sufficient money with which to promote its usefulness. And yet it is a well known fact that, in the period referred to in Dwight, it was extremely difficult for any church to raise the necessary funds to conduct its work. All sorts of means were resorted to in order to replenish the treasury. One of these was the church sociable and the unbelieving citizen was invited to pay twenty-five cents for a supper worth fifty cents which was largely donated by the members of the society. The curious feature of this was, that the unbelieving citizen would go away with a comfortable feeling physically on account of the good supper he had stowed away, but with the idea in his mind that he was a benefactor of the church and had just contributed a quarter to its funds. The society got the quarter but the man got more than its value, the members really paying the bill.

It is absolutely impossible to carry forward the work of the church without adequate financial support and it is incumbent on the community to fur-

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nish that support. The lack of funds was a serious drawback to the effort to promote the cause in this place. Another reason may be found in a lack of interest on the part of those engaged in the work. We do not mean to say that the members did not appreciate church privileges but we do mean that they, as a class, were content to let matters drift along as best they could. This was especially true of the male members, for it is without question that the largest share of Christian activity was performed by the women. In every case much was left to the pastor in charge, some thinking that he ought to earn the money paid him by doing all the work of the society. Sunday services would be fairly well attended, if the weather was good, but other meetings, not of a social character, would be left principally to the women. It needs no prophet to foretell the result. Gains were small, the work languished and in some instances was barely kept alive.

Another reason is to be found in the lack of aggressive effort and the spasmodic attempts made at certain intervals. The average member was content to "let well enough alone." He did not want to "stir up trouble." He was anxious not to hurt his business. He preferred to drift with the tide. And he was a little afraid of the opposition. He carried his religion into his business and his daily life as far as he dared, but he did not dare go very far. In some cases it was impossible to tell, from his walk and conversation, that he was a member of a church at all. Christianity was not aggressive; it was dormant. Once every so often a pastor would inaugurate a revival of religion in the town and an organized effort would be made to increase the membership. In those days the meetings were usually conducted by the pastor himself and he found his first hard work to be that of reviving his own members. For months they had been in a quiescent state, letting things go as they would, and when the time came for aggressive work they were not ready for it. As a natural result these revivals were not as successful as they might have been. Indeed, it is an index to the condition of the membership when we say that even small results were hailed with joy.

No enterprise can succeed without enthusiasm. It may find its expression in many ways but it must be an active quantity if success is expected. A man must believe in his cause to such an extent that he is willing to sacrifice for it, to give time, money and energy to it, to make it an object in his life. When men fail to have this enthusiastic belief they put the brake on the work in hand and keep it from fulfilling its mission. But we will name another, and perhaps the strongest, reason for the backwardness of the work in Dwight. It lay in the fact that the members had no full conception of the power of the Christian religion and no adequate idea of the responsibilities resting upon them. It must be remembered that throughout this chapter we are speaking of a class and not of individuals. We are taught that Christianity was inspired by God and founded by Jesus Christ, and that it is therefore of Divine origin. We are also taught that God has omnipotent power and that He stands back of His church and promises support and help to all those who believe in Him. No human ruler can offer the same conditions to one of his citizens. The

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W. H. Ketcham, Pres.

G. L. Taylor, Treas.

C. H. Thompson, Sec.

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whole teaching of the Bible, which is the word of authority to the church, is to the effect that the believer stands in a peculiar position of security and power. This being the case it remains for the believer to live up to his privileges. If he fully apprehends these things he will be an aggressive force for righteousness. He will no longer be "an unknown quantity." He will become a potential force in the town in which he lives.

Then the Bible teaches us that the work of evangelising the world rests with the members of the church. It is not delegated to one man but is the duty of every man and woman who professes the name of Christ. The Christian must be a guide to others; he must be an example to those he meets daily; he must be the exponent of right living and the champion of civic righteousness. He must be the defender of the right and the

champion of the right in every condition of life. If he has an adequate idea of his responsibilities he will not be content to see wrong done without making a vigorous protest. He will not stand aside when vice flaunts itself before his eyes but will condemn it. He will not participate in the wickedness of the world but will invariably set his face and lift his voice against it. He will stand squarely for right and live up to the teachings which he professes to believe. In the period before referred to this was not the case, except in rare instances, and no man can tell how far this operated to keep back the development of the Christian religion in Dwight. But it was one of the causes, if not the chiefest cause.

It will be said by some that in those days men were too much occupied in the struggle for existence and were too tired with their daily labors for bread to give any time or effort to religious work. But we think this is not a valid reason.

Then again, some will say that religion made little headway because of the hypocrites in the churches. But we know that this is not true. We do not believe that any man in Dwight ever refused to join a church because he believed there were hypocrites in it. So we do not think this is a valid reason. As a matter of fact the Dwight churches have been singularly free from this objectionable class of persons. Some have "fallen from grace", but, when known, they have been swiftly condemned by the church. Other organizations professing to teach morality, or more, have had a larger percentage of hypocrites than the churches and yet they have, with few exceptions, been free from condemnation by their societies. So we dismiss the hypocrite idea as an excuse and not a reason.

But in spite of all these difficulties the Christian religion obtained a firm foothold in the village and has made its mark here. This fact alone is an evidence of its intrinsic value and sterling worth. The first great impetus which it received was in the revival of 1876 to which reference has been made in a former chapter. There had been spasmodic efforts before, as we have already stated, but it was at this time that a signal victory was won and the cause placed upon a better footing in the town.

There was nothing sensational about this revival. Evangelists were brought from Chicago to preach but they did not adopt extravagant methods. But there was a spirit of harmony amongst the churches and the membership was aroused to a sense

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W. H. Ketcham

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

Law, Loans, Real Estate,

Insurance, Collections

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# W. H. Ketcham

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

**Law, Loans, Real Estate,  
Insurance, Collections**

If you deal with me you are sure to  
get a "square deal"

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of duty and faithful work. Meetings were held in the daytime and at night. In the afternoon bobsleds would be quickly filled with willing workers who would go out in different directions in the country to hold neighborhood prayer meetings at farm houses. Thus the spirit and the message was carried all through the neighboring farming community and the cause was manifestly strengthened thereby. There was no slipshod work about this revival, either. The leaders insisted on seekers after religion making complete and public confession and the converts were expected to join one of the churches and take an active part in the work. The last gathering of the series, which extended over nine weeks, was a jubilee meeting which was signalized by triumphant joy, radiant hope and unswerving fidelity. Many who read these pages will recall that last splendid gathering which packed the old Methodist church, and many will remember it with thankfulness, after an interval of over thirty years.

This was the dawn of a new era in the growth of religion in this town and marked the beginning of better and brighter days. The enthusiasm of those meetings remained here for a long time and much good work was done. In other years revival services were held at different times each adding a little to the general good, so that the movement has gone forward surely though slowly. The effect on the community has been good. The Sabbath was never so well observed here as it is at present. Fewer business men do business in their stores and offices than at any time in our existence as a village. Vice is no longer respectable but is frowned upon. Morality is observed, the saloons are gone, open gambling is not tolerated and decency and order prevail. These results are largely due to the churches. They have exercised a salutary influence on all classes and have been the principal means of discouraging wrong and helping forward the cause of right. There can be no doubt of this, in spite of the drawbacks we enumerated at the beginning of this chapter and the slowness of growth.

If any one has a doubt as to the justness of our conclusions in the discussion of this subject it will be well for that one to study a few facts and figures.

The total church membership, including all the different denominations is about 1,600. Two of the organizations claim about 100 families each and they reckon five to a family. This would give these two churches a membership of 1,000 out of the 1,600. If their estimate was made upon the same basis as the other denominations, that of those only who have made an intelligent profession of faith, the total estimate would be reduced to about 1,100. Of this number about one-fourth live in the country, and this reduces the actual membership in the village to, say, 825. The estimated population of Dwight is 2,700, so that less than one-third of the population profess the name of Christ, and the majority of these are women.

These are figures worth studying. We confess that we were surprised at them as we had believed that a much better showing could be made. It is simply amazing that less than a third of the population can wield such a tremendous power in the community, but it is still more amazing that the number is so small.

The Christian religion is a living,

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Dr. Wm. Louis Rabe

Have practiced in Dwight and vicinity thirty years

Member of the State and National Medical Association

Mentioned in Biographies of Prominent Citizens of the United States and other works

Author of several Medical Treatises

Phone 72

Office and Residence, 220 Mazon Avenue DWIGHT, ILLINOIS



73

active force. Of Divine origin, founded by Christ, it looks to the redemption of man. Its tenets were explicitly set forth by its Founder and the work of carrying on the evangelization of the world was placed in the hands of the living church. Not upon the leaders but upon the entire membership. From the day of Calvary the work has gone gradually forward amongst all lands and peoples. The Divine message has been carried to the remotest corners of the earth. The nation which despises it goes down to disastrous doom, but the nation which accepts and encourages it reaches out to the loftiest heights of fame and place and power. For it has been well said that "righteousness exalteth a nation". As of the nation, so of the city, of the village and of the individual.

A distinguished writer once visited the city of Washington and spent some time going over the Capitol building and studying the methods of government. Coming out he walked across Pennsylvania avenue and stood for some time meditatively looking at the magnificent structure. Then he said, pointing to the Capitol, "There stands the bulwark of our American liberties." That evening he spent with a friend from his own state. It was a quiet, unpretentious home and the fare was plain but the hospitality was homely and cordial. Just before leaving, his host called his family together and a song was sung, a chapter in the Bible read and the head of the household offered up an earnest prayer to God. Then, with a hearty greeting, the guest passed out on his way to his hotel. But he had not gone many steps from that humble home before he stopped, and standing there in the street he paused to think. And then he said, pointing to the home he had just left, "Not in the Capitol, not in the halls of Congress, but in such homes as these there stands the bulwark of our American liberties." For the Christian religion is at once the hope and the strength of the nation.

Take religion out of a town and it becomes a resort for the criminal classes, the violators of law, the patrons of shameless vice. Take the churches out of a town and government becomes a dead letter and order is set at defiance. We all know what a churchless town is, and we all ought to know what a church does for a town. It stands for the best in humanity; it lifts men up to a higher plane of living and citizenship; it establishes real estate values; it advocates the education of the young, the protection of womanhood, the promotion of virtue and the succor of the aged and distressed. The Christian church has ever been the builder of hospitals, homes

for the aged and refuges for the erring. Its sole object and mission is to do good. It has come down through the ages bringing the same message of hope and peace to the wandering sons of men. Such an institution is worthy of the highest praise and should have the support of all good citizens, for every one in the community, whether a church member or not, is distinctly benefited by the presence of churches in the village. In view of all these facts, with knowledge of the Divine power behind it, remembering the duties and responsibilities devolving upon us, it is manifest that a great duty and burden rests upon the members of the churches.

The following sketch of the church organizations will be of interest to our

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This page is part of the History of Dwight. Read it carefully and

Then

you will be well posted, even if you don't read the rest of the book. In the early days merchants could not carry large stocks of goods and but little variety. Staples were in demand principally and merchants simply catered to the immediate wants of their customers. But now all this is changed

and

today people want more variety and better quality. W. A. Chester, which is another name for "progress," has kept in the front of the merchandising procession. Of course he keeps staple groceries, and the best the market affords. Then he has the best line of Fancy Groceries, Fresh Fruits, in season, and Table Delicacies ever shown in Dwight.

Now

"the proof of the pudding is in the eating." If you want the glad hand, a cheerful smile, prompt and efficient service, and especially if you want good health, go and see

W. A. Chester

The Up-to-date Grocer

East Street DWIGHT, ILL.



75

readers: The first one to occupy this field was the Methodist Episcopal church. It was in June, 1855, two years after the village was started, that Rev. A. D. Field, of the Rock River Conference, made his first appointment for preaching in Dwight. He was then on what was known as the "Mazon Circuit", which embraced all the country south of the Illinois river extending from Morris to Avoca. His first sermon was preached in a room over David McWilliams' store. After the sermon six people remained behind at the invitation of the preacher and handed in their certificates of membership. They were Simeon Lutz, John Routzeng, David McWilliams, Jeremiah Travis, Isaac Baker and Isabella Baker. John Routzeng was appointed the leader of the "Class". Rev. A. D. Field preached here occasionally during that season and at the next meeting of the Conference in the Fall two ministers were appointed to the Mazon Circuit, and Dwight was made a regular preaching appointment. From this time services were held every other Sabbath morning in the school house, which had just been built.

In 1858 the society erected a building of its own, which was dedicated in July of that year by Rev. Dr. Kidder, of Evanston.

In 1862 the society ceased to belong to the Mazon Circuit, and the Rev. O. W. Pollard was appointed to Dwight, Odell and Pontiac. This was in the second year of the war, and on account of many ministers having entered the army it was impossible to supply the circuits in an efficient manner. In many instances, too, large numbers had enlisted, and this reduced the pecuniary resources of the churches. The Pontiac minister and all the male members but three had left to follow the fortunes of war.

Mr. Pollard arrived on the ground soon after Conference and at once commenced his labors. While he was waiting for his goods to come the lady of the house coolly informed him that the people were about tired of the kind of preaching they had been having and if there was not a change for the better he need not expect

much support here. These remarks were not calculated to inspire a preacher very much, but, nothing daunted, he went forward with his work and under his management the society be-came prosperous and large. His field of operations was soon found to be too extensive, and Pontiac being provided for in another way, he only had Dwight and Odell to attend to. The society grew so rapidly under his pastorate that it was found necessary to enlarge the church building and accordingly twenty feet was added in 1863.

This was the church home for nine years, when Rev. E. D. Hall was sent here for the purpose of building a new church, a task for which his previous experience eminently fitted him. He came here in September, 1865, and in October, 1867, the new edifice was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Eddy, of Chicago. The whole cost of this structure was about \$16,000 and it had a seating capacity of about 500.

The present church edifice was built in 1901 under the pastorate of Dr. A. R. Morgan. It cost \$27,000 and has a seating capacity of 900, including the Sunday school room. The parsonage was built in 1905 under the pastorate of Rev. R. B. Seaman and cost \$5,000.

The membership has grown from the original six to two hundred and sixty-two. The salary of the pastor is \$1,-

76

Good

Livers want wholesome food that will be good to eat and good for the body. "Digestion waits on appetite," if the "the eatings" are nutritious. So the wise housewife looks for

Better

brands and grades than formerly were sold. The improvement in Dwight, as shown in this history, is fairly illustrated in our store, where the careful housewife recognizes that in canned goods the None Such and Blossom brands stand for Genuineness, Reliability and Full Weight. They conform to the Pure Food Law. They are in a class by themselves. And the

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Flour is everywhere acknowledged by the prudent housewife to be branded either "E A C O" or "PURITAN." Take your choice. They are the best on the market. These popular brands and a choice assortment of Staple and Fancy Groceries and Fruits in season are sold by

NELSON BROS.

Phone 45 DWIGHT, ILL.



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600, it having been advanced from \$1,200 during the first two years of the present pastorate. The church gave \$600 to the various church benevolences last year. The present pastor is Rev. A. W. Lowther, A. M., a man of broad scholarship, an effective preacher and a lecturer of recognized ability. Under his able management the society is now enjoying more prosperity than it has ever before known.

The next church society to be established here was the Presbyterian. It was organized in 1856 with a membership of three men and five women They worshiped in the school house, which was the only available building at that time. They continued to worship there until 1857, when James C. Spencer and Col. R. P. Morgan donated the lots upon which they built a church at a cost of \$2,620. At that time it was considered a very fine building and it was well adapted for the purposes for which it was built. It was here that the Prince of Wales, now the King of England, worshiped when he visited Dwight.

The pulpit was filled by occasional and stated supplies until the spring of 1869, when Rev. L. F. Walker was called as the first pastor. This society reached a membership of about 100 but gradually declined and the organization was finally abandoned.

The next church society organized here was the Congregational. The first sermon under the auspices of this society was preached by Rev. T. A. Montgomery on December 1st, 1865, He afterwards became the first pastor of the church. The place of meeting was in Gerson's Hall, then in an unfinished condition. The middle of the room was seated with boards supported by beer kegs and was occupied by about twenty-five people.

On January 12th, 1866, a council of delegates from neighboring Congregational churches was invited to give advice as to the permanent organization of a church here. As a result of that meeting the society was organized with a membership of eleven persons.

In 1867 an effort was made to secure a church building. Lots were secured, the building commenced, and in January, 1868, the present structure was dedicated free from debt. Since then a commodious addition has been made to the original structure. The total cost of the original building, including all improvements, was \$5,425.45. The first officers of the church were Henry Eldredge and Jonas Brewer, Deacons; Samuel Cutter, Scribe; and Mrs. M. C. Eldredge, Treasurer. The purpose of the church, as set forth in its literature is as follows: This organization has for its object the public worship of God, the teaching of religious truth, the cultivation of Christian character, the promotion of fellowship and unity, the alleviation of poverty, suffering, ignorance and vice, the realization of God's kingdom of righteousness, truth and good will among men. It cordially invites all interested in the accomplishment of these ends to unite with it and give it their aid.

The membership is now 160. The present pastor, Rev. J. W. Drew, has occupied the position since Nov. 1st, 1892. He is a scholarly man of pleasing address who has made many friends here. His sermons have attracted wide attention and he has been successful in building up the society.

The Baptists organized a society in 1890, but never had a settled pastor

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1855 - 1908

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53 - Years in Business - 53

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Your account, whether large or  
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same courteous consideration

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**Ocean Tickets to all Ports of the World****Foreign Money Orders****Farm Loans****Insurance**

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and the society has been disbanded for many years. The Free Will Baptists also organized a society and built a parsonage but were never able to establish themselves here.

The Evangelical Association has a church building worth about \$2,500 and a parsonage worth \$3,500. The membership is about thirty and the pulpit is supplied by the regular pastor, Rev. John Marth. The Danish Lutherans have a small church and a membership of limited numbers. At present it is without a pastor. The Danish and Norwegian church, of which Rev. Rorstaff is pastor, is holding regular services but the membership is small.

The First Danish Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in 1876 and its first pastor was Rev. T. A. Higberg, who now resides in Copenhagen, Denmark. In the same year, 1876, a church was built on the corner of W. Chippewa and Lincoln Streets, which in 1905-6 was enlarged to accommodate the increasing membership. In 1892 a parsonage was built on W. Chippewa Street, and in 1897 a school house was erected. The membership numbers about one hundred families. The church property is valued at about \$6,000. The present pastor is Rev. K. C. Bodholdt.

The Roman Catholic church was organized in the early sixties and worshiped at first over a blacksmith's shop on Mazon Avenue. The membership included about a dozen families. As the membership increased a church building was erected which was sufficient for all purposes until 1895, when the membership had grown to such an extent that a new building became necessary and the present structure was completed at a cost of about \$15,000. The parsonage, across the way, cost about \$5,000. The first priest was Father Lonergan, who is still remembered by some of the parishoners. The present pastor is Rev. John Powers, who is doing a good work among his people. The society now includes about a hundred families and is in a harmonious and prosperous condition.

Commercial.

This has always been a commercial center. It was started for that purpose, at a time when there seemed little prospect of it ever reaching any prominent place in the commercial world. All round it, for many miles, there stretched the broad, rolling prairie with its tall grass just as it was when the Indians roamed over Illinois in quest of game. The railroad had just been opened and this appeared to be a convenient point at which to establish a market for produce and to supply the wants of the incoming farmers. Even at that early day business was good and it soon became evident that this was going to be a central market for farmers over a wide extent of country. Mercantile enterprises of all kinds were soon established. At first the merchant had to keep nearly everything that a farmer might need, but afterwards the special branches of trade were developed. Naturally the growth of business was not very rapid, as it had to depend upon a limited area but it was always substantial and profitable.

As the years passed by Dwight came to be recognized as an important trading place, far outstripping its immediate competitors. Farmers came from distant points to trade here and thus helped to build up the town. The reasons for this commercial activity are

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JOHN J. DOHERTY, Cashier. E. M. HOFFMAN, Asst. Cashier.

DIRECTORS

CURTIS J. JUDD JOE MILLER WILLIAM WYLLIE

FRANK L. SMITH R. H. MILLS



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not far to seek, and they have ever been found to be a sure road to success, in life.

Our merchants were noted for their honesty, in the first place. The farmer knew that he would get "a square deal" here. He knew that the merchant would not take advantage of him in any way. Fair dealing was the rule in Dwight and it was a drawing card for the farmer. Then again, buyers made it a point to give the best possible prices for farm produce. This soon became well known and farmers would haul their stuff long distances in order to get the best market price. Then again, the merchants supplied goods of fair value. The buyer soon found out that the dealers kept a line of merchandise which was dependable and that he got good value for his money. All these were reasons which, apart from location, helped to develop the business of our town.

Compared with cities the volume of trade was small, but compared with towns of similar size it was considered large. All through the early years of our history it was estimated that Dwight did a much larger amount of business than any town of similar size in this part of the state.

It is not our purpose at this time to give any statistics as to this growth or the present commercial status of the town, but rather to deal with conditions and the causes for them. It goes without saying that business has

always been good and that it has steadily improved from year to year, many accumulating fortunes as a result of their activities. With the increase of population there has come increasing demands for supplies, and with the development along social, moral, educational and religious lines there has come a demand for things which may be called the luxuries of life. At first, and for many years, people were content with the necessaries, in fact, that is all most of them could afford, and the stores were stocked in harmony with this condition. But today our merchants carry first-class stocks of goods which compare favorably with those of large cities. At the present time there is not only a better business done here but there is a larger amount in proportion to the population. More is wanted than in former times and the people are able to pay more and for better qualities.

This is all satisfactory as far as it goes. Our merchants have made a living and some of them have accumulated wealth but, in our opinion, the average means of the individual citizen could have been materially increased. In other words, there has not been the commercial enterprise here which might have existed under other conditions. It is the province of the historian to point out the causes and comment on the conditions.

When we look over the ground to ascertain in what way prosperity has been curtailed we must remember that the limited territory tributary to Dwight is the first cause. As we have said, in 1853, that territory extended over a wide stretch of country, but after a time other little towns were started and the area from which we could draw trade was much reduced. Being purely an agricultural town depending entirely upon the farmers for support, this reduction of available territory was a serious matter and prevented, to a certain extent, the more extensive development of trade. Our proximity to Chicago has for

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many years been a disturbing factor in the extension of commercial interests. When it became possible for our citizens to go to Chicago in the morning and return the same day, with plenty of time for trading in the city, it was frequently taken advantage of, to the detriment of the local dealer. This is still a bar to success here and the merchants have been compelled to meet the Chicago business offerings as far as possible. They have been obliged to keep the things wanted by their customers and meet, as far as lay in their power, city prices. This has entailed carrying larger stocks of goods and a lowering of legitimate profits. This has been carried to such an extent that now some things can actually be bought cheaper here than in Chicago. This fact may not be known to the average buyer but a little comparison and investigation will prove the truth of the statement.

There has always been a little jealousy among our merchants and more of less fear of competition.

Sometimes it was racial, and sometimes purely financial. Prices have been cut and other methods resorted to in the effort to get a little ahead of one's neighbor. Upon looking over the list of our advertisers, however, we think it is fair to say that they have not been guilty of this foolishness, to give it no harder name. The man who came here to do business [was] frowned upon and sometimes steps were taken to drive him away. And the unfortunate peddler was not always successful in selling his wares.

Competition is said to be the life of trade. It is generally conceded that a sharp contest between men in the



same line is beneficial if conducted along honorable lines. But it has uniformly been considered that an attempt to drive a competitor out of town, or prevent him from doing business, is poor policy and betrays a littleness of mind and cowardice of heart which is out of place in this twentieth century. We think our business men, as a rule, for there are always exceptions, are free from this and welcome honest and honorable competition at all times.

There has not been, in the past, as great a local pride as there ought to have been. A man should not be content to enjoy the advantages of the place in which he lives; he should lose no opportunity to make those advantages known to others. While we do not believe in "boom" towns we do heartily believe in every man booming his town on every possible occasion. This has not been the case here to the extent which one might reasonably have expected and it is one reason why greater progress has not been made. Oliver Wendell Holmes said that the people of Hull, a little village in Massachusetts, were accustomed to read Pope's famous line,

"All are but parts of one tremendous Hull."

While this is carrying local pride to an extreme, it nevertheless illustrates our point. One should speak highly of his home town if it is worth praising and should make every endeavor to scatter the impression of its worth far and wide.

There is a Commercial Club in Dwight but its name is a misnomer. Almost any other name would have been more appropriate. It is not composed wholly of commercial men, it has no commercial interests and it

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does nothing to increase the commercial prosperity of the place. Which is unfortunate. In other places Commercial Clubs have been formed for the purpose of advertising the local advantages to the outside world and inducing capital to come there and good families to make it their home. That this plan has been eminently successful is well known. It is a businesslike proposition. It commends itself to the level-headed business man who is not satisfied with the results of his work, and that means the successful business man. Dissatisfaction is the road to success. If the Club referred to would change its name and give an organization a chance to use it in a legitimate way it would be better for the town. But as that Club happens to be composed of business and professional men and capitalists who have the welfare of the town at heart we would suggest that it take up the activities along the line which its name implies. This could have but one result and that would be the rapid building up of the village and the development of industries which would be productive of greater wealth.

In this connection it may be well to consider some of the lost opportunities; lost up to this time but still within our reach if the public spirited citizens are willing to avail themselves of their opportunities. Take the

question of coal for example. There is a well defined vein of coal here which could be mined with profit. The opening of a coal mine would be of immense value to us from a financial point of view. It has been said that this industry does not bring in a desirable class of citizens and increases immorality. But it is idle to suppose that they would control the town and it is foolish to suggest that they would subvert the morals of the place. It is the office of those in authority to see that laws are obeyed, and it is the duty of those having our moral welfare in charge to see that it is kept above reproach. The coal industry may have its drawbacks but it is a source of wealth which many places would be glad to have.

Then take the question of factories. Dwight is splendidly located for industrial enterprises of this character. Water power no longer being an inducement to location we have as many advantages to offer as other places have. Our railroad facilities are first-class, we have the land in the immediate vicinity ready for occupancy, and we can offer better than ordinary residential advantages. The establishment of industries of this character would be a great benefit to the village. It would enable us to have better schools, to improve the streets, to encourage progress in many directions, besides adding to the material resources of the inhabitants. Other places have found them of value and this would be the result here. From every economic standpoint it is desirable that industrial activities should be encouraged. In the case of Dwight it is all the more necessary from the fact that the territory tributary to us has been so largely curtailed of late years. It is really the only way open to us for the proper development of the town and offers the only feasible method by which Dwight can be made a large and prosperous place.

Why are there not factories here? The question has often been asked and the fact of their absence is regarded as one of our lost, or neglect-

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You want the most for your money, and of course, again, you go to Kern's,  
west of the depot at Dwight, where you are sure to get a good bargain,  
rain or shine. GROCERIES - just groceries, but GOOD TO EAT.

You can "eat hearty" and enjoy life  
if you trade with

P. D. KERN



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ed, opportunities. There are several reasons. The lack of public spirited effort is a primary cause. It has been no one's special business and there has been no concerted movement in this direction, as there would have been if there had been a business men's association having for its object the advancement of our interests

along commercial lines. Then there has been a feeling on the part of some that such institutions were in the same class as the coal mines and that they would bring those who would be inimical to the orderly conduct of affairs. This has not been found to be the case in other places which have gladly welcomed manufacturing establishments, which have furnished employment to many on better terms than they had been accustomed to work. The manufactory draws its trade from the outside world, but it spends, and causes to be spent, large sums in the town which would not otherwise be done. The economic argument is all in favor of the factory. From the commercial point of view, and that is what we are now considering, it has been a mistake in the past to neglect this evident means of bettering the condition of the town.

One institution here brought some improvement in the way of extra business which at one time seemed likely to assume considerable proportions, but the reaction left our people but little better off commercially than they had been before. We refer to the local institute for the treatment of drunkenness, the opium and kindred addictions.

This organization is known as The Leslie E. Keeley Company and as it is the largest commercial enterprise in Dwight it may be well to give a historical sketch of its career. It was in the spring of 1880 that the world at large first heard of a Gold Cure. For some time previous to that its founders and originators had been carefully considering the matter and preparing a remedy which would cure the disease of drunkenness. Fred B. Hargreaves and Dr. Leslie E. Keeley had been friends for many years and spent much time together in a social way. When Fred B. Hargreaves was traveling through this state lecturing as the State Lecturer of the Illinois State Temperance League he met a man who was the victim of alcoholism and who was known to Dr. Keeley. On his return from a lecture trip Hargreaves met Keeley socially, as usual, and in the course of conversation spoke of their mutual friend and expressed a wish that something might be done for him in a medical way, as the pledge did not seem to be effective. Keeley asked him what he would suggest and Hargreaves named a drug which he said he understood would be effective in such cases. Keeley said he also knew of the drug, which was not strange, as he was more or less familiar with the drugs then in common use. Keeley wanted Hargreaves to have some of the medicine made up and give it to their friend, but he objected to this, as the man lived at Chenoa and he was not going there again in the near future. On subsequent occasions when they met the same subject was discussed, and some months later Keeley told Hargreaves one day that he had been trying their medicine on a man and it had done the work. Hargreaves doubted this and so, to convince him, it was decided to treat a saloon keeper named Pat Conefry. This was done and the pa-

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tient lost all desire for liquor. This was so satisfactory that Hargreaves wanted Keeley to join him in putting

the remedy on the market as a patent medicine. But he refused to do so on the ground that it would injure his professional reputation and might lose him his position as surgeon of the C. & A. Railroad. After much discussion, however, Keeley said that if he was credited with the discovery of the remedy he would allow his name to be used as the discoverer in order to give medical prestige to the business, but he would not consent to appear in a business way. This was agreed to, Hargreaves saying that he did not care for any glory in the matter and he agreed to give Keeley the credit of being the sole discoverer. Shortly afterwards, and before the business was really commenced, having obtained Hargreaves' consent to his being called the sole discoverer, Keeley decided to take an active part in the business and wanted his name used exclusively, claiming that it would give weight to the affair as he was a railway surgeon and had formerly been a surgeon in the army. About this time John P. Campbell, then a resident of Dwight, became interested in the matter and wanted to join in the enterprise. He had been treated with the remedy and was enthusiastic about it. So a partnership of three was formed, Leslie E. Keeley, Fred B. Hargreaves and John P. Campbell, each putting an equal share into the business. In those days the cure was called the Double Chloride of Gold Disintoxicant and the name Leslie E. Keeley was used as a firm name.

Hargreaves and Campbell went to Bloomington to exploit the cure. They found it difficult to secure patients but they did get one, who proved to be hard to cure. The remedy was in a crude condition at that time and besides the tonic preparation gold pills were used on him, but they had such a disastrous effect that they were discontinued. Both Keeley and Hargreaves were very anxious about this case as they knew that their remedy was not complete and they were trying to improve it. At this time Keeley sent Hargreaves some powders which he called gold powders telling him to give them to the patient and note the effect. But Hargreaves had had enough of the gold experiment and refused to try it any more. Those powders are still in his possession, but they do not contain gold. It became necessary to substitute some other drug in place of the gold and this was done. During their stay in Bloomington several letters were received from Keeley, from which we quote, which have a bearing on the history of this cure. In that of April 22d, 1880, Keeley says: "Now let me say from the moment I received that letter and yours, a new era began in the life of the Disintoxicant. You have been confident all this time, be doubly so hereafter. I send you a powder. Dissolve it in two drachms of hot water. Two drachms will be just double the quantity of water by the graduate of the amount of the fluid gold you put into each bottle by instruction. Then dissolve this powder in two drachms of hot water and add it to one of the bottles you have not already doctored, and give it to Mr. ---- to take and watch its effects. It will take all his strength away, together with his appetite for both liquor and food, then after a couple of days let him resume

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the old medicine, but not till the appetite for intoxicants is entirely destroyed. I send two powders, dissolve one in one drachm of hot water and add it first. If that don't have the effect in

two days, add the second.

"Still yours in the fight to win,

"Keeley."

On April 30th, he writes as follows: "I felt immeasurably disappointed in not hearing from you tonight. You ought to know how anxious I am., "We will give 25 per cent off on a \$40 deal to druggists. To an agent who buys the county, we will make a special arrangement with him for \$25 a dozen in perpetuity, and furnish him with advertising material in moderation. We will sell to dealers direct from the home office and for every dozen sold at 25 per cent off we will send \$5 to the agent of the county in which the sale is made, in perpetuity. This will encourage immediate purchase and make the thing immediately paying to us. I hope ---- is all well but I am fearful as you have not written me. I am sorry I did not tell you in my telegram this p. m. to answer.

Youre ever,

"Keeley."

On May 7th, 1880, he wrote: "I think I will have to let Oughton go; I have nothing for him to do and there is no use in paying his board for nothing. I have paid it thus far. Disintoxicant is getting d--- expensive in its insinuosities. I know that it has run up on me and on you too, but I feel that it will go; I know it will. Now I will leave you with this prediction, that inside of two years we will be laughing at our present straits and laughing to the music of jingling gold made out of Disintoxicant. It can not help but go, my boys, it is a discovery second to none since the world of invention came into vogue. It will make us all money, it is bound to; if it is slow it will be sure. Mark the prediction. Till the boom does come we must make it a triangular fight, back to back, like the Three Guardsmen.

"Yours,

"Keeley."

These letters throw some light on the early and inside history of the Gold Cure and will be interesting to our readers.

After a short stay in Bloomington, Hargreaves and Campbell returned to Dwight. Keeley had rented a small building on the west side, according to agreement, and this was made the headquarters of the Gold Cure. The name was still retained, as Keeley thought it was too good a name to give up and that it would sound well in advertising.

Shortly after their return Keeley bought Campbell out as he did not take an active interest in the business. It soon became evident that the two remaining partners would have to get some more money as the business was not progressing very fast. Keeley persuaded a friend of Oughton's to put \$500 in the business in Oughton's name, hoping thereby to keep Oughton from leaving and disclosing the formula which had been communicated to him in order that he might make the remedy. Soon after that more money was needed and this time Father Halpin, the Catholic priest, was induced to put in \$500. When C. J. Judd returned from Colorado, where he had been looking after, the Dwight-Chenoa mining interests, Keeley wanted to have him in the business and so he was given a share.

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Some months after this it was decided to form a new copartnership and draw up partnership articles. This was done, the partners being, Leslie E. Keeley, C. J. Judd, Fred B. Hargreaves, John R. Oughton and James Halpin. The business had now developed to such an extent that a bright future seemed to be before it. It was extensively advertised and became quite profitable. In the meantime the opium cure had been discovered by Keeley and Hargreaves and put upon the market. The tobacco cure followed later.

Started at first as a patent medicine business it was soon found that it would be necessary to put most patients under personal treatment. At first only a few could be persuaded to come to Dwight for treatment but the number gradually increased and this soon formed the most profitable part of the work.

In 1886 a disagreement between the partners resulted in Hargreaves being forced to sell his interest in the business of placing the remedies on the market, to his copartners. An inventory was made out including all the stock on hand, the fixtures, literature, notes, accounts and property of a like nature. The good will was not included and, as the formula did not belong to the copartnership, but was the property of Keeley and Hargreaves, it was not included in the inventory.

Some years after this the Gold Cure got a phenomenal boom and patients flocked here from all parts of the country. It is estimated that over a thousand patients were here at one time. The boom only lasted for a short time but it taxed the town to care for so many people. After awhile the business settled down to a normal level. Branch institutes were established in many places and all who wanted to take the cure were provided for at the several institutes. Dr. Keeley died in 1900. After his death the company was carried on by his former associates and the business has increased to a large extent. The company now operates a fine hotel, the Livingston, fireproof and as well appointed as any large city hotel; it has handsome offices and laboratory fitted up with all modern conveniences in city style, and a power plant to furnish electricity to their buildings. It is estimated that their business property here is worth \$500,000. Thousands of patients have been treated here and at the branch institutes and many cures have been effected.

After severing his connection with the Keeley company Fred B. Hargreaves went into the same line of work in Chicago and in other cities, curing thousands of patients with his remedies. In 1904 he organized a company in Dwight, called the Fred B. Hargreaves company, for the purpose of selling his remedies and treating patients with the same. It was contemplated by this company to establish a large Sanitarium at this place which would have the effect of bringing more trade to the town. But before the company had got fairly started the Keeley company enjoined them from using the remedy and Hargreaves from disclosing it. This case has now been in the courts for nearly four years at this writing (January, 1908) and is now in the Supreme Court of the state. If it had not been for this injunction it is probable that Dwight would now be enjoying a much greater degree of

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prosperity than has fallen to her share.

Dwight is in Livingston county, Illinois, on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, 73 miles south of Chicago. It is in the heart of a great corn growing country where farming has been brought to a high state of perfection and where industry, thrift and skill have won splendid rewards from the fertile soil.

Dwight has paved streets, an excellent water system, good sewerage, electric lights, fine business blocks, well stocked stores and an enterprising class of merchants who vie with each other in the march of commercial progress. It is noted for its handsome streets with their avenues of trees, its modern residences of architectural beauty and its well trimmed lawns, and gardens.

With its manifold improvements and advantages it typifies the spirit of Western development harmoniously

blended with the world's culture and advancement. Far ahead of the ordinary Western village, it occupies a leading place in the communities of the state, which has been won by the earnest endeavors of its citizens. Many have contributed to this bright realization of effort and all are proud of the results which have been gained. In conformity with the plan of this work we have refrained from mentioning names in connection with the later growth of our village. It has been suggested that this History would not be complete unless some names were mentioned, but we have been discussing results and their causes, and not the workers themselves. It would be invidious to mention some and not all, for all who had any share in our prosperity are equally entitled to credit.

Gratified as we are with the past and the present, the "Then" and the "Now", we are not satisfied, but turn hopefully to the future. There is much yet to be done. There are Improvements waiting to be carried out. A public library is needed. The moral and physical training of the young must be more adequately provided for. These, and other matters of importance will engage the attention of our people, and so it will come to pass in the future that a greater Dwight will exercise a greater and more beneficent influence in the better days to come.

[End]