

The Foundations and the Twelve Wonderful Stones—Ancient Superstitions About the Amethyst—And This Is But the Outside of Heaven.

The Wall of Heaven. Dr. Talmage's subject was "The Wall of Heaven," and his text, Revelation xxi, 19, "The foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones."

Shall I be frank and tell you what are my designs on you to-day? They are to make you homesick for Heaven; to console you concerning your departed Christ; to strengthen you with the assurance of the brilliancy of the scenes in which they are coming; to give all who love the Lord a more elevated idea as to where they are going to pass the most of the years of their existence, and to set all the indifferent and neglected to quick and immediate preparation, that they may have it likewise.

Yes, it is to induce many of our young people to study a volume of God that few ever open, but without some acquaintance with which it is impossible to understand the real structure and color and value of the precious stones mentioned.

My text stands in the presence of the most stupendous splendor of the universe, and that is the wall of Heaven, and says of its foundations that they are garnished with all manner of precious stones. All that is to be had for our safety, and Heaven has a wall for everlastingly safe. You may say that a wall made up of all manner of precious stones is figurative, but you cannot understand the force and significance of this figure unless you know something about the real structure and color and value of the precious stones mentioned.

Now, I propose this morning, so far as the Lord may help me, to attempt to climb not the wall of Heaven, but the foundations of the wall, and I ask you to join me in the attempt to scale some of the heights. We shall only get part of the way up, but better that than to stay down on the stupid level where the most of us have all our lives been standing. We begin clear down at the bottom and where the wall begins.

The Jasper Wall. The first layer of the foundation, reaching all around the city and for 120 miles, is composed of jasper, and there is more of jasper in the wall of Heaven than of any other brilliant, because it not only composes a part of the foundation, but makes up the chief part of the superstructure. The jasper is a conglomeration of many colors. It is brown, it is yellow, it is green, it is black, it is red, it is purple, it is black, and is so striped with colors that much of it is called ribbon-jasper.

It is found in Siberia and Egypt, but it is rare in most lands and of great value, for it is so hard the ordinary person cannot break it off from the places that it has been deposited in. The workmen bore holes into the rock of jasper, then drive into these holes sticks of dry birch wood, and then saturate the sticks and keep them saturated until they were enough to split the rock, and the fragments are brought out and polished and transported and set in silver, and put behind the glass doors of museums.

The portraits of Roman Emperors were cut into it. The finest intaglio ever seen is in the Vatican Museum, the head of Minerva in jasper. By divine arrangement jasper adorned the breastplate of the high priest in the ancient temple. But its most beautiful use is in the altar, where it glows and burns and darkens and brightens and preaches from the lowest stratum of the wall of Heaven. Glad am I that the very first row of stones in the wall of Heaven is jasper of many colors, and if you like purple it is purple, and if you like green it is green, and if you like yellow it is other yellow, and if you like vermilion it is vermilion, and if you like black it is black. It suggests to me that Heaven is a place of all colors—colors of opinion, colors of creed, colors of skin, colors of taste.

But we must pass up in this inspection of the foundations of the great wall of Heaven, and after leaving the jasper the next precious stone reached is sapphire, and it sweeps around the city 1,300 miles. All lapidaries agree in saying that the sapphire of the Bible is what we now call lapis lazuli. It is a blue stone with a violet tinge. "The place of sapphires," and God thought so much of this precious stone that he put it in the breastplate of the high priest, commanding, "The second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond."

The sapphire is a blue, but varies from faintest blue to deepest ultramarine. It is found a pebble in the rivers of Ceylon. It is elsewhere in compact masses. Persia and Tibet and Burma and New South Wales and North Carolina yield exquisite specimens. Its blue eye is seen in the deep blue of the sky, and it is the more enchanting, and I do not wonder that the sapphire is called into the foundation of the wall of Heaven. It makes a strong stone for the foundation, for it is the hardest of all minerals except the diamond.

The stone based on jasper, a blue sky over a fiery sunset. St. John points to it in Revelation and says, "The second, sapphire," and this suggests to me that though our earth and all its furniture of mountains and seas and atmospheres are to collapse and vanish we will throughout all eternity stand in a world that is the most beautiful of earthly appearances, whether you take this sapphire of the second layer as literal or figurative. The deep blue of our skies and the deep blue of our seas most will not, but it is to be a more beautiful world than the world has gone to since any one was to recall how the earthly skies looked in a summer breeze, or the midocean in a calm, we will carry, ply to look at the second row of the foundation of the wall of Heaven.

Oh, I am so glad that St. John told us about it! "The second, sapphire." While we are living in light of that wall spirits who have come from other worlds and who have never seen our earth will visit

us, and we will visit them, and some time we will be in converse about this earth when it was set afloat, and as we, and we want to be about the time when I looked at certain times, and then it will be a great object lesson for all eternity, and we will say to our visitor from some other world, as we point toward the wall of Heaven, "It looked like that stratum of foundation next to the lowest row, emerald, second chapter and nineteenth verse." "The second, sapphire."

"Chalcedony and Emerald." A step higher and you come to chalcedony, another layer in the foundation of the wall and running 1,500 miles around the Heavenly city. Chalcedony? Translucent. A divine mixture of agates and opals and corals, striped with white and gray. Dashed of pearly bluing into red and darkening into purple. Iceland and the Hebrides hold forth beautiful specimens of chalcedony.

But now we must make a swift ascent to the top of the foundation wall, for we cannot minutely examine all the layers, and so, putting one foot on the chalcedony of which we have been speaking, we spring to the emerald, and we are one-third of the way to the top of the foundation, for the fourth row is emerald. That, I would judge, is the favorite stone among gems, because it holds what seems evident is his favorite color on earth, the green, since that is the color most widely diffused across all the earth's continents—the grass, the foliage, the everyday dress of nature. The emerald Kings used it to stamp their royal emblems. "The rainbow around the throne of God is by St. John compared to it."

Conquerors have considered it the greatest prize to capture. What ruthlessness when the soldiers of Pizarro and Cortez, and other conquerors, have laid hands on it, and the destiny of Mexico. Five of them were presented by Cortez to his bride, one of them cut into the shape of a rose, another into the shape of a trumpet, another into the shape of a bell, with tongue and peal, and this presentation, announced the jealousy and the throne and caused the consequent downfall of Cortez. But the depths of the sea were voyaged with those emeralds, for in a shipwreck they went down off the coast of Barbary. Napoleon wore an emerald at Austerlitz.

In the Kremlin museum at Moscow there are two magnificent emeralds and outspread miracles of emerald. Ireland is called the Emerald Isle not because of its verdure, but because it was presented to Henry II of England with an emerald ring. Nero had a magnificent glass of emerald through which he looked at the glories of the world. The emeralds are 1,500 miles of emerald sweeping around the Heavenly city in one layer.

Sardonyx and Sardius. But upward still and you put your foot on a stratum of sardonyx, white and red, a seeming commingling of snow and fire, the snow cooling the fire, the fire melting the snow.

Another climb and you reach the sardius, named after the city of Sardis. Another climb and you reach the chrysolite. A specimen of this, belonging to Epiphanius, in the Fourth century, was said to be so brilliant that whoever was put over to conceal it was shown through, and the Emperor of China has a specimen that is described as having such penetrating rays that it makes the night as bright as the day.

A higher climb and you reach the beryl. To thousand years ago the Greeks used this precious stone for engraving purposes. It was accounted among the royal treasures of Tyre. The hint of Murat's sword was adorned with it. It glows like frozen fire, of Great Britain. Luther thought the beryl of the heavenly wall was turquoise. Kalisch thought it was chrysolite. Joseph thought it a golden colored jewel. The wheels of Ezekiel's vision flamed with beryl and were a revolving fire.

The beryl appears in the sky, and is set in seals and intaglios, in necklaces and coronets. It was the joy of ancient jewelry. It ornamented the affluent with eardrops. Charlemagne presented it to his favorites. Beautiful beryl. Exquisitely shaped beryl. Divinely colored beryl. It seems like congealed light. It looks like frozen fire.

But stop here. Climb higher and you come to topaz, a bewilderment of beauty and named after an island of the Red Sea. Climb higher and you come to chrysoberus, of greenish golden hue and hard as steel. Climb higher and you reach the jacinth, named after the flower hyacinth and of reddish blue.

The Fable of the Amethyst. Take one more step and you reach the top, not of the wall, but the top of the foundations of the wall, and St. John cries out, "The Twelve an amethyst!" That is the word when found in Australia. The Twelve are the twelve apostles or pyramids. For color it is a violet blooming in stone. For its 'play of light, for its deep mysteries of color, for its uses in Egyptian, in Etruscan, in Roman art it has been honored. The Greeks thought this stone a preventive of drunkenness, and the Romans thought it a source of pleasant dreams.

For all lovers of gems it is a subject of admiration and suggestiveness. Yes, the word amethyst means a prevention of drunkenness. Long before the New Testament made reference to the amethyst in the wall of Heaven, the Persians thought that cups made out of amethyst would hinder any kind of liquor contained therein from becoming intoxicating. But of all the amethystine cups from which the ancients drank not one had any such result of prevention.

The Hebrew Superstition. But standing upon the top of this amethystine layer of the foundation of the wall of Heaven I bethink myself of the mistake that many of the ancient Hebrews made when they thought that the amethyst was a producer of pleasant dreams. Just wear a piece of amethyst over your heart or put it under your pillow, and you will sleep in a dream filled with everything beautiful and entrancing. No, no. The style of pillow will not decide the character of the dream. The only recipe for pleasant dreams is to do right and think right when you are wide awake. Conditions of physical weakness give a good-night nightmare, but a man physically well, if he behave himself aright, will not be troubled with bad dreams.

Nebuchadnezzar, with eagle's down under his head and Tyrian purple over his, struggles with a bad dream that made him shake out of the south-wind, and astrologers to come and interpret it. Pharaoh, amid the marble palaces of Memphis, was confounded by a dream in which lean cows ate up the fat cows and the small ears of corn devoured the large ears, and a awful famine was predicted. Pharaoh's wife and a cloud of richest upholstery, had a startling dream because of which she sent a mes-

sage in hot haste to a courtroom to keep her husband from enacting a judicial pillow for the night.

But Jacob, at Bethel, with a pillow of straw under his head, saw a blissful dream of the ladder angel blossoming. Bunyan, with his head on a hard plank of Bedford jail, saw the gates of the celestial city. St. John, on the barrenest island of the Egean Sea, in a hollow of a crag, and saw cavalrymen on white horses and a new Heaven and a new earth. No amount of rough pillow can disturb the night vision of a saint, and no amount of amethystine charm can delude the dream of a miscreant.

Some one will say, why have you brought us to this amethyst, the top row of the foundation of the Heavenly wall. If you are not able to accept the theory of the ancient Greeks, who said that the amethyst was a charm against intoxication, or if you are not willing to accept the theory of the ancient Hebrews that the amethyst was a producer of pleasant dreams? My answer is, I have brought you to the top row, the twelfth layer of the foundation of the heavenly wall of 1,500 miles of circling amethyst to put you in a position where you can see a new idea of Heaven; to let you see that after you have climbed up twelve strata of glory you are only at the base of the eternal grandeur; to let you, with enchantment of soul, look far down and look far up, and to force upon you the conclusion that if all our climbing has only shown us the foundations of the wall, what must the wall itself be? and if this is the outside of Heaven, what must the inside be; and if all this is figurative, what must the reality be? Oh, do not let me see that it was impossible that you understand a hundredth part of the suggestiveness of that twenty-first chapter of Revelation without going into some of the particulars of the wall of Heaven and dipping up some of its dripping colors, and running your eye along some of the outside of Heaven in its turquoise, and feeling with your own finger the hardness of its sapphire, and shielding your eyes against the shimmering brilliance in its beryl, and studying the 1,500 miles of emerald without a flaw? Yet all this is outside of Heaven.

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But when I entered the palace and saw the pictured walls, and the long line of statuary, and aquariums afloat with all bright scales, and aviaries a-chant with bird voices, and the inner doors of the palace were swung back by a cherub. Why, it makes an Emperor and Empress and princes and princesses, and they greeted me with a cordiality of old acquaintance. I forgot all the groves and noral bewitchment I had seen outside before entrance. And now I ask, if the outside of Heaven attracts our souls to-day, how much more will be attracted the souls of the angels, who see the King in his beauty and all the princes and princesses of the palaces of amethyst?

Are you not glad that we did not stop in our ascent this morning until we got to the top round of the foundation wall of Heaven, the twelfth row, the amethyst? That the ancient Hebrews were not, after all, so far out of the way when they thought that the touch of the amethyst gave pleasant dreams, for the touch of it this hour gives me a very pleasant dream. Standing on this amethyst I dream a dream. I close my eyes and I look out upon the wall of Heaven. Not the outside, but the inside of Heaven.

With what warmth of welcome our long ago departed loved ones have kissed us. My! How they have changed in looks! They were so sick when they were away, and they are so well. Look at the angel of the wall of Heaven the King. Not a moment outside we are ushered into the throne-room. Stretching out His scarred hand He says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," and we respond, "Whom have I in Heaven but thee?"

Children in Heaven. But, look! Yonder is the playground of the children. Children were on the throne. A throne would not fit a child. There they are on the playgrounds of Heaven—the children. Out of the sick cradle of earth they came into this romping mirth of the eternal playgrounds. I clap my hands to cheer them in their play. And before their feet are the martyrs, and before their feet are the flowers, crimson as the bloody martyrs through which they waded up into glory. Yonder is Apostolic row, and the highest turret is over the home of Paul. Here is Evangelist place. Yonder are the acrobats in which the musicians of the angels have been taking part—Handel with organ, and David with harp, and Gabriel with trumpet, and four and twenty elders with voices.

And an angel of God says: "Where shall I take you? On what street of Heaven would you like to live? The celestial habitation would you like to occupy?" And I answer: "Now that I have got inside the wall made up of all manner of precious stones I do not care where you put me. Just show me where my departed loved ones are. I have seen the Lord, and next I want to see them."

A MAN has to be occasionally told he is to be hanged to-morrow to make him appreciate the many good things he has.

We never know how a woman keeps from freezing to death in winter.

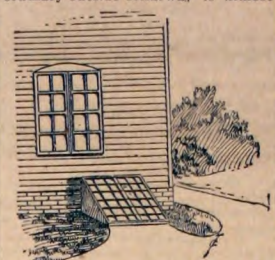
AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Cellarway for Wintering Plants—Pumpkins Make Yellow Butter—Feed Rack for Poultry—Stock Shelter—Beet Racked—Facts About the Farm.

Convenient Plant Pit.

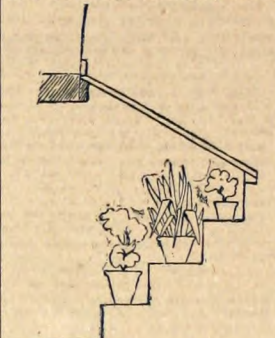
American Gardening gives an illustrated description and sketches of an ingenious plan for utilizing an outdoor cellarway as a plant pit. The ordinary outside cellarway is almost



EXTERIOR OF THE PIT.

Invariably made to face the south, and is thus in the right situation. All that is needed is to substitute glass for the wooden doors, and make everything snug and tight, banking with earth if thought necessary. The inner cellar door is left open and danger from freezing is thus avoided. The cellar steps serve as plant shelves. Many plants, such as century plants, oleanders, large cactuses, etc., that have grown too large to be accommodated in the sitting room or conservatory, can be wintered in any moderately dry, frostproof cellar. After placing these large plants in the cellar it will not be necessary to give them any water, the object being to keep them dormant all winter, which can be done by keeping the soil dry, but not so dry as to allow the plants

to shrivel or become withered. Large geraniums, salvia, and heliotrope roots, and even tea roses and carnations can be kept moderately well in



CROSS SECTION OF THE PIT.

the cellar by trenching them in dry moist sand. The leaves of all deciduous plants should be removed before they are put away in this manner. The foliage should remain on the oleanders and carnations.

Shelter the Stock.

That farmer spoke an everlasting truth that said in a Wisconsin farm institute: "My friends, one cold fall rain will injure my cows and sheep more than standing out a whole day, dry cold weather." He further said that it took a deal of time and preaching to jog him into the idea of putting his stock under shelter in the fall. "I am convinced," he added, "by the experience of only five years that I have lost money enough by neglect in this particular in my life time, to pay for my whole farm. It has me a big profit to see that my stock is kept comfortable the year round." A breeder of high-class dairy cows lately set prices upon some of his surplus stock, but before the buyer accepted his offer he was induced to have his milk product analyzed. The result astonished him and led to a complete revision of his prices. One 7-year-old cow which he had placed at a low price was found capable of yielding sixteen pounds of butter a week, and another cow gave him a similar surprise, while one that he thought more valuable than either could not yield seven pounds a week. Test them before buying or selling.

Pumpkins Make Yellow Butter.

Many butter makers feed pumpkins to the cows, and the rich yellow color of the flesh of this food is due to the large quantity of deep yellow oil in this flesh. On the well-established principle that the fats of the food go directly into the milk, without change by digestion, it would only be reasonable to believe that the yellow butter made when pumpkins are fed is due to this yellow oil in the food. There is a common opinion to the effect that pumpkins are injurious to the cows, as tending to reduce the quantity of milk given. This is quite a mistake. This deep yellow color has been known to affect the fat of pigs that have been fattened on pumpkins so much as to make it unsalable, on the suspicion that the pigs have been diseased. The food is highly fattening, and one of the cheapest and most healthful, but as yellow bacon is not desired so much as yellow butter is, it will be desirable to feed pumpkins to pigs with buckwheat, which to some extent counteracts the high color of the former, and the addition of bran or shorts to the food will be a further help in this direction.

General Appearance of the Roadside.

The ornamental appearance of the roadside can be much improved by clearing up the brush and loose fencing

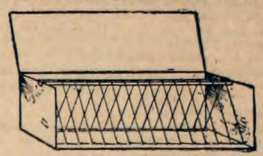
material, and by not using the roadside as a dumping ground for rubbish. Plant a few shade trees upon one side only, especially if the road runs north and south, as large trees on both sides shade the road so densely that it dries out very slowly after each rain. A few apple, or other standard fruit trees, with proper care, can be made to flourish and be as valuable along the roadside as in the cultivated fields. Weeds and bushes should be cut down each year, and it takes but a little time to make the road sides so smooth that the grass along them can be cut with a machine. They look so much neater when thus trimmed, and the hay alone will compensate for all trouble involved in this road improvement.

About Bees.

The Progressive Bee Keeper says: "By careful watching, most beekeepers could save choice drones and rear queens enough for their own apiary, either between the summer and fall harvest, or after the fall crop is gathered in. We feed our nuclei and drone colonies when our queens are old enough to mate, so as to have all flying at once, and so lessen the chance of any mismanagement."

Poultry Feed Rack.

To keep the poultry out of their food is a constant study with most feeders, but notwithstanding the care exercised much is wasted and more is soiled. A first-rate feed rack for fowls can be made with slats, but it is a slow job and therefore expensive. I have found a quicker way and one



THE RACK COMPLETE.

that is fully as effective. Let a good trough be made of boards, with board ends one foot high, and into these mortise a stick one inch square so its top will lie flush with the top of the end boards. Now tack a piece of bale wire to the right-hand end of one side of the trough and carry it over the inch stick, securing it in the same way on the other side. Use lath nails instead of tacks and do not drive them close in until the wire lacing is completed. Then they will carry the wire with them into the wood. A broad board nailed on top of the end pieces keeps the birds off the ridge and gives the wires an additionally tight fastening. Such a feed rack is lighter, stronger, cheaper, because the old wire costs nothing, more durable and cleanly than one made entirely of wood.—L. J. Simpson, in Farm and Home.

Farm Facts.

JUDGMENT must be used as to the depth of planting.

You get from the animal what you put into it—no more.

We must adapt our schools to teaching what is practical.

LEARNING to do one thing helps in learning to do another.

EXERCISE breeding stock and keep up the bone and muscle.

SHALLOW rooting plants are best adapted to shallow soils.

SORGHUM as a fodder crop stands drought better than corn.

YOU cannot have the best crop unless you use the best seed.

LETting an animal run down to save food is a double loss.

ON the farm is where the laws of nature can be best learned.

BLUE grass, like other grasses, is valuable where it flourishes.

DO not be afraid of a little fresh air and sunshine in the house.

ROTting manure before applying it is facilitating nature's processes.

A TOO concentrated fertilizer is like too concentrated food—injurious.

BE sure of your market before you go into any productive enterprise.

THE earlier grass is cut the sooner the second crop begins to come on.

RIPE or full-grown grass in the pasture is always shunned by animals.

THE farmer should know the needs of the crop and the lack of the soil.

PLENTY of grass with a little grain will keep pigs in good market condition.

KEEP your potatoes and apples in the coolest and darkest place you can find.

THERE is generally lime enough in the soil, but its presence is indispensable.

LAND plaster (sulphate of lime) is the best form of lime to use as an absorbent.

Careless Wastefulness.

A FEW hints in regard to careless wastefulness are well worth considering. Waste in the kitchen is often very great from apparently trivial sources.

TOWELS are used for holders.

THE tea canister is left open.

CREAM is left to mold and spoil.

SCRAMS of meat are thrown away.

BROOMS and mops are not hung up.

DISH towels are used for dish cloths.

COLD potatoes are left to sour and spoil.

LIGHTS are left burning when not used.

SILVER spoons are used in scraping kettles.

VINEGAR and sauce are left standing in tin.

TEA and coffee pots are injured on the stove.

CHEESE molds and is eaten by mice and vermin.

TIN dishes are not properly cleaned and dried.

AROUND A GREAT STATE.

BRIEF COMPILATION OF ILLINOIS NEWS.

Illinois Women Can Hold Office—Governor most successful in London—Township of 100,000—Manufacture at Rockford—Wheat Said to Be Injured.

From Far and Near.

An epidemic of measles and whooping cough prevailed in London. Township of 100,000. Mrs. ANNA L. WYATT, of Lincoln, was found dead in bed at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. John C. Mathis, in Springfield. She had recently undergone a surgical operation, but was thought to have recovered.

The Rockford Rotary Weaving Machine Company has been organized, with capitalization of \$25,000. The members of the Illinois State Poultry Association met at the Exhibition Hall, Tuesday, and elected J. L. Stinson, President, and G. W. Knudson, of Peoria, Secretary. The scoring of the pet stock ranged from 92 to 97. The 1893 meeting will be held in Decatur.

The reports from the great wheat-growing section of Central Illinois indicate that the growing crop has been badly injured by the December drought and the exceedingly cold weather of the last three weeks. Accurate estimate of the damage cannot be made at this time.

JOHN CLARK BROWN, the 14-year-old special delivery messenger in the post-office in Springfield, was arrested, tried and found guilty in the United States District court to the charge of embezzling \$9.73, and taping the stamp drawer to the amount of \$50.

The Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission ordered an interlocking plant placed south of Litchfield at the crossing of the tracks of the Washburn, the Jacksonville, Louisville and St. Louis, and the St. Louis and Chicago railroads, and an interlocking plant north of Litchfield at the crossing of the Washburn and the St. Louis and Chicago railroads.

MITTENS WILLETTE, the actress, who is now dying of cancer at her mother's home in New York, was born in Cairo about twenty-seven years ago, in the house now occupied by Mrs. Sarah E. Hannan, the Department President of the Women's Relief Corps. Her father was Edward Willette, then an editor who had been associated with several leading Western newspapers.

The Supreme Court at Mount Vernon has decided the contested election case of Oscar Yost and O. W. Wallace against Mrs. M. E. Plummer and Mrs. N. P. Moss in favor of the two latter, who were declared elected members of the School Board last April. The Court holds that the intention of the Legislature was to allow a vote to be cast, and the statute should be so construed.

NEWS has been received of the sinking of the Government steamer Kirus by the ice twenty miles below Cairo. The river gorged at Hickman Sunday noon. The backwater from it caused the river to rise eighteen inches at Belmont. This loosened the ice at the upper end of the Belmont gorge, causing it to close down upon the Kirus and sink it and a barge. The Polar Wave, another boat that was near the Kirus, has not been heard from, and fears for her safety are entertained.

TWO CHICKEN thieves, who made a business of selling stolen chickens to butchers in Aurora, were bound over to the Grand Jury in the sum of \$400. They were before the grand jury handed to Marshal Plummer one of the thieves, William Tiffany, ran out of the rear of the jail into Fox River. The ice broke in with him, but he managed to get across, and before the patrol wagon could start in pursuit had obtained a good start and his capture had been abandoned. The other thief was in an ingenious cage constructed on runners, with which they pilfered over 100 chickens and sold them to local butchers.

"TO Establish a State Board of Road Commissioners" is the title of a bill introduced by Representative Bonney. The essential features of the proposed act are: That the Governor shall appoint a board of three citizens to prepare and submit to the State Board of Supervisors a report of the condition and maintenance of an improved system of public roads in the State upon the roadbeds of such existing roads as may be selected by the several boards of supervisors. Within ninety days after the passage of the act the State Board of Supervisors of the several counties shall designate the public roads which shall be best suited to the condition of improved construction as public roads. A vote shall be taken by the legal voters upon the question of building said roads. If the project so voted in favor of by a majority of the legal voters, the selection shall be deemed final. Sealed proposals will be received and the contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The Supervisors are empowered to issue bonds to defray the expenses of building such roads, and the State Board shall each year render an official report to the Governor, and also make a report to the Auditor of the official expenses of the board. One-fourth of the cost of building such roads shall be paid out of the State Treasury, provided that the amount so paid in is not in excess of any one year exceed the sum of \$500,000.

WILLIE FISK, an Elgin boy, was seriously bitten by a dog as he was on his way to school.

The Rev. Thomas J. Hunter, pastor of Calvary Church, of Rockford, has received a call from New Jersey and has accepted it. He will preach his farewell sermon Feb. 5.

The Rockford Furniture Exchange, composed of twenty-six furniture companies, resolved to give the ill-disposed 200 square feet of the space in the Manufacturers Building in which to make an exhibit at the World's Fair.

JOHN LONNAGIN, living near Marissa, committed suicide by shooting himself. He was a prominent farmer. A short time ago he was kicked in the head by a horse. This it is believed, caused his mind and caused him to commit suicide.

The New Orleans and Cincinnati steamer Guiding Star, with 1,500 tons of sugar and molasses aboard, went aground about fifty miles below Cairo. The amount so paid is voted for by one year exceed the sum of \$500,000.

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