

The Woodford county convention will be held in El Paso, Thursday, June 28, to place in nomination county officers, elect delegates to state, congressional and seasonal conventions and endorse a candidate for representative.

General Smith D. Atkins, of Freeport, was in Dwight, yesterday, calling on friends. The General reports his canvass for state treasurer as very satisfactory to him, and he is gaining friends. The General is one of the best men in the state, and the republicans will make no mistake in nominating him.

When we opened the Fairbury Blade last week we thought we had discovered Bill Dalton or some other wild west man from Bitter creek; but upon reading the appended description we learned that the portrait was meant for a likeness of Smith Olney, one of Fairbury's best and most prominent citizens. But no one would have known it if the name had not been added. The portrait probably looked more like Mr. Olney after he saw that picture than before. The Blade man should go gunning for the alleged artist.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the publisher of The Inter Ocean has made a special offer on the weekly edition of that paper during the present political campaign. He will send The Weekly Inter Ocean for six months to any subscriber on receipt of thirty cents. This is a very low price for one of the best and ablest Republican newspapers in the country. Good Republicans should try to increase its circulation. Subscriptions will be received at this price from June 1st to August 1st. After that the regular price will be restored.

Livingston County Political Pointers.

We publish the call for the republican congressional convention in this issue. The call for the democratic convention is also out. It will be held in Streator July 17.

The call for the republican county convention has been issued. Dwight is entitled to sixteen delegates. The convention will be held in Pontiac July 25. There will be but one convention this year.

Chas. L. Bigelow, of Pontiac, candidate for the republican nomination for county clerk, made us a pleasant call Saturday. Mr. Bigelow is an old resident of Pontiac and is a thoroughly honest, upright citizen. He is an old soldier and is probably the youngest veteran in Livingston county. He is past commander and at present adjutant of T. Lyle Dickey Post, No. 105, of Pontiac. Mr. Bigelow has never been a candidate for office and is in every way perfectly capable and if nominated, and his chances are good, he will undoubtedly be elected and make a splendid official.

Congregational Meeting. The following is the program for the Congregational fellowship meeting at Emington, Ill., Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19 and 20, Dr. S. T. Root, Odell, chairman.

Tuesday evening, sermon, Rev. E. F. Wright, Dwight.

Wednesday a. m., Opening Exercises; "Normal methods in Sunday school work," Prof. M. M. Alden; Devotional exercises, prayer for the Holy Spirit to rest upon our churches, leader, Deacon Wood, Dwight; "Woman's work in the church," Mrs. John McWilliams, Odell.

Wednesday afternoon, Opening exercises; "Stories of the pioneer preachers," Father L. Taylor; "Institutional Methods for Church Growth," Rev. W. A. Cutler, Emington; "The Church at Work for the Community," Rev. I. J. Swanson, Odell. All papers to be followed by discussion.

Wednesday evening, Song Service; "Why should the Boys of Our Country Towns Seek a Higher Education," "Why Should a Church be Interested in Missions," Rev. I. J. Swanson, Odell, "The Essential Condition of Success in Church Work," Rev. E. F. Wright, Benedict.

Pontiac Threatened

Pontiac, our county seat, has all tore up the first part of the week over the announcement that a delegation of 500 miners were on their way there from Streator to make the co-operative miners in Pontiac quit work. Sheriff Coe got a tip that they were coming and telegraphed to Springfield for arms and ammunition. They arrived on time and the sheriff immediately swore in about seventy-five deputies. Twenty-five were placed at the mine as guards and the remainder were held in readiness to be called out at any moment. We understand the miners heard that Pontiac was right in it when it comes to war and turned around and went back home and General Coe marched his way up the hill and then down again, as it were, and the war was over.

It is said that when the sheriff was swearing in deputies that coat-tails were following their owners around corners in every direction getting out of the sheriffs way and the doctors were all busy giving certificates of ill-health. No Canadian trips were laid out, however.

Laying all jokes aside, the manner and promptness in which the sheriff and the Pontiac people acted, is indeed creditable and was probably the means of squelching the destroying of property and the loss of life.

Livingston county is all right.

History of Dwight

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT UP TO DATE.

Interesting Information Derived from Old Residents.

(NOTE—This history, after being published in the STAR AND HERALD will be arranged in book form and illustrated with views of the principal features of Dwight and portraits of many of our citizens. As the type must be used continually, all orders for the book must be received by us very soon. The book will probably contain about 150 pages, neatly bound, and the price will be not over 25 cents, single copies. Leave orders at this office.—Editor.)

On the first of August, 1854, the railroad was opened through from St. Louis to Chicago, and it has ever 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.

It was not long before the population began to increase in another way, and in January 1855 the first child was born here to a daughter of Mrs. N. Tiggs, of Dwight. Time passed quickly away, and the people were busy in improving the town, and others kept moving in.

The first regular store was built by David McWilliams, in 1855. It was painted white, and like the telegraph pole surmounted by the tin pan, before alluded to, served as a way mark to all in search of the new village. It is said that the first sale made by Mr. McWilliams, after opening a store here, was a lawn dress pattern, which the workmen presented to the wife of the Station Master of the railroad. The store seems to have been a house of general accommodation, and was used as a place of worship, and also as shelter for the newcomers of those early times until they had found a permanent place to lay their heads.

A few other stores were in operation and one hotel invited the attention of weary and hungry 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. The more rapidly the surrounding country filled up the more rapidly must the town grow. And it is not surprising therefore that when the Prince of Wales visited the neighborhood in 1890, 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 reports 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 a 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, Esq., emigrated from Rochester, Ohio, accompanied by Geo. T. and Henry F. Conant. The latter died here Sept. 22, 1858. Mr. Conant was a man of facts, a strong total abstinence man and a Congregationalist by profession. 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, Esq.: "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."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

AMUSING FACTS.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH in Rome will contain 54,000 persons.

The extreme breadth of Texas is 760 miles and its extreme length 620.

SOME words in the Chinese language have as many as forty different meanings.

TRAVELING it year in and year out the coldest hour of each twenty-four is five o'clock in the morning.

The Roman architects used to put empty jugs in the walls of theaters to make them more resonant.

DULL, dusty shoes will absorb heat from the sun, earth and air, but shoes brightly polished throw off the heat of the sun by reflection.

The flash of a gun fired at a distance is seen long before the report is heard, because light travels much faster than sound. Light would go 480 times around the whole earth while sound is going thirteen miles.

TWO PHYSICIANS lately advertised in a daily paper, offering five thousand dollars to a man who would submit to an experimental surgical operation involving some risk. One hundred and forty two answers were received.

It is complained of English nurses who come over to this country that they are altogether too genteel, and carry their sense of superiority about with them in such an offensive and conspicuous manner as greatly to impair their usefulness.

AN Australian confectioner has hit upon the idea of printing the news of the day upon a thin paste of chocolate using chocolate instead of ink. He delivers these cakes to his customers, who first read them and then devour them with their coffee. This is a new and novel way of devouring the news.

IN the higher altitudes of North Carolina, though relatively dry and equable, the variations of temperature, says Dr. A. N. Bell, amount to twenty degrees between day and night, "requiring special care on the part of invalids in regard to clothing adapted to the change on the going down of the sun."

SOME new use for paper is heard of almost every week. The latest is to use paper bags for the collection and removal of garbage. They are two and a half feet long, made of heavy manila paper, coated with oil and resin, and cost only two cents apiece. The garbage is put in them day by day, and when the cart comes round the bag is lifted into it and carried away for good. They are said to be waterproof, to give off little odor, and to be recommended by the New York Board of Health.

INDIVIDUALITIES.

TOSTI, the great song-writer, is an accomplished amateur upholsterer. He spends his leisure in making sofas and cushioned chairs.

GEN. JUBAL EARLY was celebrated for picturesque and profuse profanity. His accomplishment in this particular earned for him the sobriquet of "Lee's Bad Old Man."

GLADSTONE, in addition to \$500,000 left him by his father, has a rent-roll of the Hawarden estate, which came into the possession of his wife on the death of the last male Glyne. His annual income is \$125,000 a year.

IBSEN dines every day at the Grand Hotel, Christiania. He sits in solitary seclusion at a little table, seldom speaking to any one except the waiter, but very often taking notes of those around him. Ibsen's wife is alive, but they are never seen together.

AN exemplified copy of the will of James G. Blaine, filed in Washington recently on account of a real-estate transaction, is very brief, merely giving to each of his children \$50 and to each of his grandchildren \$25, and the rest of his estate absolutely to Mrs. Blaine.

SENATOR BLANCHARD, who occupies Justice White's seat in the Senate, can toss a coin in the air and bore it with a bullet from a pistol two times out of three, and occasionally he drops into a Washington shooting-gallery and surprises the spectators with his bull's-eye accuracy. Only one man ever challenged Mr. Blanchard to a duel, and he withdrew the challenge as soon as he learned of his opponent's reputation as a shot.

SIR FREDERICK LEIGHTON, the great English painter, is a stalwart, long-nosed man of pompous manner, with curly hair and a flowing gray beard, and always wears a voluminous silk tie, loosely knotted, the ends flowing superbly over his shoulders. He is a profoundly ornate speaker, but his periods, like his paintings, smell too strongly of the lamp, and the art students, whom he addresses with immense suavity once a year, find him a bit of a bore.

BITS OF THINGS.

WHEN you bid your sin good-by, don't shake hands with it.

NO ONE is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.—Dickens.

IT is exercise alone that supports the spirits and keeps the mind in vigor.—Cicero.

IF it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, why not do it with all thy heart?

NO MAN doth safely rule but he that hath learned gladly to obey.—Thomas à Kempis.

THE man who is anxious to serve God never has to wait long for a chance to go to work.

FAITH is a sure support at all times. No matter where it steps, it always stands on solid rock.

NOTHING but the infinite pity is human life.—John Inglesant.

WORDS are seeds of deeds. Be sure you sow good seed, for they will appear in kind in other lives.

GOOD manners are a part of good morals, and it is as much your duty as your interest to practice both.—Hunter.

THE aim of intellectual training for the mass of the people should be to cultivate common sense.—J. Stuart Mill.

JESUS says, "I am the light of the world," but more than one thousand millions of people of the earth are in spiritual darkness.

ONLY from the solid ground of some clear-eyed and high-minded, but common work in the world, can any great talent come power.—Phillips Brooks.

"OLD NANCY."

AN ILLICIT STILL that has been operated for Thirty Years.

The capture of an illicit still operated near Sinking Mountain by Deputy Collector Brown recalls a story of long-continued defiance of law, says an Elberton (Ga.) correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The still was bought in 1838, and was put up on the plantation of the late George Dye. When the war opened it passed into the hands of a Habersham County whiskey dealer, who did a rushing business for four years. There was no railroad at the time within 100 miles of this section, and the liquor made by "Old Nancy," as the still was fondly named, was the favorite trade not only throughout northeast Georgia, but crossed the lines into North and South Carolina. Once the still was embargoed by the officers of Habersham in 1863 because of the demoralization it created among the small boys, who with the old men were about all there was left.

At the restoration of United States authority "Old Nancy" became contraband. Revenue prisoners brought before United States commissioners would tell about how "Old Nancy" was prospering, but try as they would the officers never could capture the still. When the distillers of one community found themselves too closely pressed they would run the still over the mountain or down the creeks to where companions in lawlessness would secure possession of it and they would run it until compelled to do likewise. This was the still in quest of which Lieut. McIntyre of the United States army was killed in Gilmore County in 1875. Subsequently it was run back east, being operated at Warwoman creek in Rabun County for several years.

Of late the officers have heard that this will-o'-the-wisp, which they have been following for thirty years, was in operation in a secluded region near Sinking Mountain. Collector Brown, with an armed posse, successfully located the spot one night recently during a violent rainstorm. The moonshiners fled, giving the officers the opportunity of destroying the whole plant.

Booth as a Bill-Poster.

One story of Booth's trip to the Sandwich Islands remains with me. He had gone there in 1854, in company with his comrade, Mr. David C. Anderson, en route to Australia, and they were to play in the Royal Hawaiian Theater.

They had hired a native to paste up the bills announcing the performance; this had to be done with a preparation name "poo-poo," made from a vegetable called "tara-tara," which is a favorite food in Honolulu; but the poor man was so hungry that, yielding to temptation, he incontinently ate up the paste, and to their surprise no bills appeared, writes William Bispham, in the Century.

When the reason was ascertained they feared to trust another native, and it was therefore agreed that, as Booth was the younger, he should act as bill-poster, and it came to pass that every night after the performance, Edwin went about the city with his play-bills and bucket of paste, and put up with his own hands the posters announcing that the company would play on the following night. He assured me that he did this honestly and did not eat the paste.

Sneezed the Curtain Down.

On a recent Shakespearean tour a new heavy lady joined us at Manchester, an English actress, her opening part being the Queen in "Hamlet." This actress, having been disengaged for some time, to preserve her wardrobe from moth had smoothed it in black pepper. Being rather late for her first scene, she omitted to shake out her royal robes, and her dignified entrance had an astonishing effect upon all on the stage. The King, after a brave resistance, gave vent to a mighty a-tishoo that made the stage vibrate. All the royal courtiers and maids of honor followed suit sympathetically. Hamlet came on with his most sublime tragedy air, but after a convulsive movement of his princely features buried them in his somber robe, while sneeze after sneeze was all the public heard from him. I was playing Ophelia, and what with a wild desire to laugh, and then to sneeze, and then to cry, jumbled the lot up in a violent fit of hysterics. Amid the hubbub on the stage and the shrieks of delight from the audience, the stage manager sneezingly rang down the curtain.

The Original Ossified Man.

In the Museum of Natural History in Dublin is the skeleton of a man, a native of the South of Ireland, who was called the ossified man. His body became ossified during his lifetime. He lived in that condition for years. Previous to the change he had been a healthy young fellow of superior strength and agility. One night he slept out in a field after a debauch, and some time later he felt the first symptoms of the strange transformation. The doctors could do nothing to avert the progress of his malady. His joints stiffened. When he wanted to lie down or rise up he required assistance. He could not bend his body, and when placed upright he resembled a statue of stone. He could stand, but not move in the least. His teeth were joined and became an entire bone. The doctors, in order to administer nourishment, had to make a hole through them. He lost the use of his tongue, and his sight left him before he died.

The Sultan's Expenses.

The Sultan of Turkey is the most extravagant horsekeeper in the world. According to a recent estimate his domestic budget runs thus: Repairs, 100,000; furniture, mats, beds, etc., 200,000; toilet requisites, including rouge and enamel for the ladies of the harem and jewelry, 200,000; extra extravagancies, 22,000,000; clothes and furniture for the Sultan personally, 4,000,000; doucers and wages, 280,000; gold and silver plate, 250,000; maintenance of fine carriages and horses, 2,100,000—total of 27,000,000—or about \$35,000,000.

Europe's Milk Supply.

A German journal puts the milk production of the chief countries of Europe as follows: In millions, Germany, 14,218,000,000; France, 11,117,000,000; England, 8,225,000,000; Austria, 8,307,000,000; Sweden, 2,203,000,000; Low Countries, 1,321,000,000; Denmark, 1,250,100,000; Belgium, 1,201,000,000; Switzerland, 1,100,000,000; and the United States, the equivalent of 220 millions.

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