

Dwight Star and Herald.

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KIMBALL PIANOS AND ORGANS

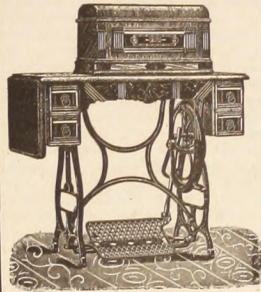
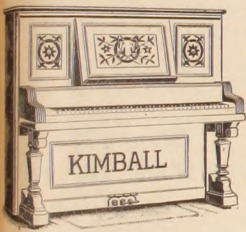
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PRETTY PICNIC.

Between Showers the Modern Woodmen Have a Good Time.

The long talked of Modern Woodmen picnic took place near God's church last Thursday p. m. There were over a thousand people present and everyone enjoyed a pleasant day. In the morning it looked rather wet and it was with forebodings that a few of the faithful wended their way to the grounds, but the weather seemed to improve with age, and the sun finally came out and everything was as bright as a new laid dollar. Gradually the crowd came stringing in from all points of the compass, afoot, horseback, in wagons and carriages, until the woods were full of 'em—a laughing, jolly, good-natured crowd.

Dwight, Gardner, Mazon and Verona camps turned out in full force and the country all around was well represented. It was not only a union picnic, but it was a union of hearts and hands and will not only tend, we trust, to be beneficial to all who attended, but to the order of M. W. of A.

The sports were postponed until after the speaking, owing to the late hour of arrival. Some parts of the original program were omitted on account of those on the same being afraid of getting wet.

Dinner was served about noon and everyone had their fill of good things.

Mr. Piatt called the meeting to order and the two bands Verona and Mazon Creek contended for the cake and made excellent music. There was also music by the Verona quartette. Mr. Piatt introduced the speaker of the day and chaplain of the Illinois State Woodmen camp, Rev. E. F. Wright, of Dwight. We prepared a condensed report of Mr. Wright's address, which was excellent and highly spoken of by all present. The address was wholly devoted to Woodcraft, and the drift of it was as follows:

"Each great race of people has stood for some great idea. The Hebrew idea was righteousness. Man was to seek to develop a character like that of God himself. The Greek idea was beauty. He ever strove for the cultivation of the aesthetic faculty.

The Roman idea was law. The nations he conquered were not only to pass subjugum Romanum, but also under the Roman law.

Now the Anglo-Saxon, a branch of the Germanic family, a branch of Josiah Strong in "Our Country" stands for freedom, for pure religion, and for the domestic virtues, that is, for the home. Even in his barbaric state he was called the free necked man, and he cherished the family relation. It is too much to suppose that a society like the M. W. A., which is based on the home, could ever have originated among any other people than our own?

The corner-stone of the G. A. R. is patriotism; of the Y. M. C. A. is religion; of the Masonic fraternity is brotherhood; but the M. W. A. was organized for the protection of the home, and is sustained because of it. Neither is it an accident that the members bear the honorable name of neighbors. In the olden days, a neighbor was one who lived near at hand, and it was policy to treat him well, because of that fact. But you are all familiar with an incident in the life of the Great Teacher, who when a certain scribe was willing to justify himself and asked, "Who is my neighbor," replied in the language of the parable of the good Samaritan. He showed him in that beautiful story that your neighbor is the one who needs your help, though you may never have seen him before. This order has taken this sublime idea and in a limited way is seeking to carry it into effect. In the last paper there was given the death roll,

and it contained the names of men in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and other states, men of whom we never heard until we saw their names there. But we contributed our money as freely for their families as though we had known them all our lives. They were our neighbors. One woman told her story well. She opposed her husband when he wished to join the Woodmen since it was a secret order. But in her absence, on one occasion, he did join. However, he kept it from her. After a few months he was taken violently ill. They were poor and, as she supposed, comparatively friendless. But as soon as it became known that her husband was sick, the neighbors of the M. W. A. camp were on hand to assist in caring for him. They had watches provided for every night. Finally he died. The Woodmen prepared him for burial and were in attendance at the funeral. Within a few days a check was handed her for the sum of \$3,000. With that she payed off the mortgage on the place and was saved from the terrible pinch of poverty. Then she saw that her husband was right in joining the Woodmen, and that she was wrong in her opposition. The members were faithful friends in her hour of sorrow and need, and now she is never weary of sounding the praise of the M. W. A.

But there are those who say: "We are not able to join." You are mistaken. The rich man is the one who can afford not to insure; but a poor man with a family cannot; that is, if he loves them as he should. Now, in the majority of these cases where the man is too poor to insure, I will guarantee that he uses twice as much tobacco annually as would pay his initiation fee and keep up all of his dues for that period of time. Then, for the sake of those you profess to love, practice a little self-denial. Cut your tobacco bill in two and protect your wife and children in the event of your death. Finally, neighbors, let us do what we can to promote an increase of interest in this truly beneficent society and thereby throw the aegis of our order over many families that otherwise might be left destitute.

After the bands played again and the benediction pronounced, one of the base ball and other games took place. One ball game took place in the forenoon between Highland and Verona second nine, the latter winning by a score of 39 to 9. In the afternoon two games were played between Dwight and Mazon and Dwight and Gardner, and Dwight won both; the first by 14 to 5 and the second by 27 to 6, getting the \$20.

While the ball games were going on the sports were running also. In the 150-yard foot-race there were five entries: J. Finch, W. Finch, C. Finch, M. A. Still, E. Baker. The Finches won in the order named and took the money.

In the 100-yard foot-race W. Finch won first and J. O'Hara, second.

F. King, E. Paxson and F. Tinsman entered in the fat men's race, the latter winning; Paxson, second. It was a big race.

The boys' race was won by H. Peterson; L. Preston, second; E. Piatt, third, and C. Piatt, fourth.

The girls' race was won by Iva Tinsman; Miss Wood second, and Lollie Keith, third.

The bicycle race was scooped in by J. B. Finch, Joe Kevin and C. Martin in the order named.

Some of the sports were omitted on account of not being entries.

Withal the day's sport was very satisfactory, and we would suggest that a regular association be formed and that annual picnics be held a little earlier on account of fall rains. Some time in August would be much better.

The stands were well supplied with good things, but they were all sold.

The committee has not been called together yet, and as to the financial outcome we cannot state,

but should judge expenses were made.

The committee in charge did the best they could under the circumstances, and hope next year a new one will have better luck regarding the weather.

We publish this week the following communication from Goodfarm relative to the M. W. A. picnic, which has no name signed to it. This is against the rules of this paper, but we publish this after eliminating some things of a personal nature for which, no matter whether true or not, no one but the editor would be blamed for:

GOODFARM, Sept. 18, 1894.

EDITOR HERALD—I have been wondering whether or not at this busy time any one would stop to express, through some well-circulated reliable paper, a few words of thanks from the delighted people to those persons directly or indirectly responsible for the grand picnic held in Goodfarm, Thursday last.

"What's everybodys' business is nobody's business" is an old adage of much truth, and as I am quite small and pretty near nobody, perhaps the task rightfully devolves upon me. And it is indeed a task, as I can hardly find suitable words in which to express the great credit due to the committees, speakers, to you and your young, but enterprising staff, to the liberal bands, the racers, and last, but not least, to the crowd which, for intelligence, decorum, sociability, generosity and nobleness is seldom surpassed. Some came at "the eleventh hour" without their usually well-filled baskets, but from all around they heard the cry: "Ho! everyone that is an hungered, let him come and eat with us and be filled." There was but little codfish aristocracy to mar the harmony.

There was a sad feature of the picnic: Some who were wont to be with us, and whose welcome voices and cheerful smiles were greatly missed, were detained at home by serious illness.

Lastly, ample praise is rightfully due to everybody and everything. Even Mr. Weather at last repented and seemed in perfect sympathy with the great movement.

We have heard much of hard times but, in sight of that well-laden stand and those 150 or 200 beautiful rigs from country and town—phaetons, barouches and elegant carriages—no thought of hard times could arise.

Despite bad weather and postponement every arrangement was agreeable and satisfactory except to those who wanted more pears and ice-cream.

Hurrah for the Modern Woodmen of America.

Contractor-Arnold.

Miss Jean Cantner and Judge W. A. Arnold were married at the residence of the bride's parents, in Monticello, Ill., Wednesday evening, September 19, 1895, there being present only the immediate friends and relatives of the contracting parties.

Judge and Mrs. Arnold are virtually Dwight people, the handsome bride having been in the employ of The Leslie E. Keeley Co as stenographer for a number of years, and Judge Arnold has been employed in their legal department. They will take up their residence in Dwight, where they will meet with a warm reception by their many friends here.

The STAR AND HERALD wishes to join all Dwight in extending congratulations and best wishes to the genial judge and his bonny bride.

Sale Bills.

There is no printing office in the country better equipped to do Auction Bills on short notice and satisfactory than the STAR AND HERALD, GARDNER TRIBUNE and BRACEVILLE TRIBUNE office. We are prepared at all times to execute this work, and orders can be left at this office in Dwight, Bert Strahl, in Gardner, at his barber shop, or with T. T. Smith, in Braceville. Prices reasonable for best work.

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