

Our Country Contemporaries.

Ogden, Junction, Feb. 15—

Ogden City was visited with a heavy gale on Sunday evening, which continued until sunrise on Monday morning.

A man named Lewis Elder, a resident of Harrisville, sustained serious injuries through the careless handling of fire-arms, last Saturday evening. Several persons, Elder among the number, were firing at a mark with revolvers. Elder could not discharge his pistol by pulling the trigger, so he commenced pounding the cap, a proceeding which quickly caused the discharge of the weapon, the ball from which, striking some object near at hand, was split, half of it rebounding and entering Elder's thigh, inflicting a severe wound; other pieces of the fractured ball struck him in the face, completely destroying one of his eyes, and otherwise disfiguring him.

NEWS NOTES.

Boston finds it necessary to keep up corporal punishment in her female grammar schools.

At recent "bal de l'Opera Comique" in Paris there were present 2,119 persons, and of these 1,116 were dead-heads.

A school teacher in Kinderhook, Pine county, Illinois, kicked a pupil of his school the other day, for which he was fined thirty dollars.

Mrs. Manchester, who died recently in Pittsford, aged 105 years, used often to remark in reference to her long life, "I am afraid God has forgotten me."

A butcher in London was tried for sending bad meat to market, a short time ago, and the charge being proved, he was given a month in prison, without the option of a fine.

The German authorities have notified the son of Count Von Arnim not to use the title of count any longer, as the title was conferred upon his father by the government, and is not hereditary.

General Sheridan has sent a letter to the Methodist Preachers' Association, at Boston, thanking them for their recent vote endorsing the President's Louisiana policy, and his own action in enforcing it.

One correspondent of the New York Index decides that man is not immortal, and another announces his belief that money is "barbarous." These are extremely "progressive" correspondents even for a free religious journal.

M. Henri Wieniawski, who accompanied Rubenstein in his concerts in this country two years ago, has just been attached to the Royal Conservatory of Music, Brussels, as conductor of the concerts, and professor of the violin and quatuors.

Notwithstanding the great snow fall this season in the mountains of Montana there appears to be as little in the valleys as in the middle States and Territories. The average depth in the valley lands of Montana does not probably exceed eight or ten inches.—*Montana Paper.*

At the scientific gathering at Lille there was exhibited a collection of the skulls of troglodytes obtained in the south of France, every one of which had been perforated with round holes during life. What was the purpose of this prehistoric surgery?

Five sets of natural teeth is a large proportion for one person; but it is reported that a nun who has just died in Paris at the age of ninety years had a new set grow in her jaws a few years ago; a previous new set at sixty-three; also at forty-seven, and these in addition, of course, to the two earlier sets that all have.

Mr. Passmore, of Pennsylvania, says he prepared for market twenty-five bunches of common rhubarb, by stripping the leaves from the stalks. The leaves were thrown to nine hogs. Five of the hogs died with all the symptoms of poison. The other four were sick for some days, but recovered.

In France a man, awakened in the night by thieves in the house, called for assistance so lustily that his neighbors came from every side. Those from one side in the obscurity opened fire on those from the other side, and the compliment was reciprocated so effectively that four persons were so wounded as to endanger their lives. Naturally the thieves escaped.

Oregon appears to enjoy very mild winters. A record kept near Salem in that State shows that during the last five years the average temperature of the winter months has never been lower than thirty-three degrees. Last year it was forty-two degrees.

A Washington correspondent of the New York World writes: "Brownlow is to the Senate what Stephens is to the House. Attendants carry him twice a day to and from his chair at the extreme left of the President's desk, close to the door. There he sits, pale, attenuated, ghostly, never speaking, never smiling, voting by signs and apparently lifeless, save for the perpetual quiver and twitch of a terrible palsy. Such is Parson Brownlow, of Tennessee."

She threw a shawl over her head, ran down Sixth street two blocks, turned into E, and went one block, and as she entered a house she remarked: "Good evening, Mrs. Smith; how's all the folks? Husband's sick, baby complaining, John's foot is no better, rent is due, and the coal is out, but I really felt as if it was my duty to get out of the house for a few minutes, and inquire if they've convicted Beecher yet."—*Ez.*

Ten senators whose terms expire on the 3rd of March next, took their back pay and refused to return it to the Treasury. They were Tipton, of Nebraska; Brownlow, of Tennessee; Carpenter, of Wisconsin; Boreman, of West Virginia; Planagan, of Texas; Gilbert, of Florida; Lewis, of Virginia; Stockton, of New Jersey; Stewart, of Nevada, and Sprague, of Rhode Island. Not one of them has been re-elected. The people are very much in earnest about that salary grab.—*Cleveland Leader.*

New York, February 2.—There are many theories advanced concerning the money, amounting to nearly \$1,000,000, found in a rag shop in Washington yesterday. The detective officers have the matter in hand, and they concur in acknowledging the bills which are of a National Bank of this State, to be genuine. The officers of the bank say they know nothing about the pieces of the bills, nor whether they were sent to the Redemption Bureau and mutilated there or not.—*S. F. Chronicle, Feb. 3.*

Herr Driesbach, the lion-tamer, who for several years past has been quietly living on his farm, about three miles west of Wooster, Ohio, has again returned to public life. He has purchased the hotel property at Applecreek Station, in Wayne County, Ohio, which he will in future personally conduct for the entertainment of man and beast. On January 27th he took formal possession of the hotel, and did it in the imposing style of his old show days. He made a grand entry into the town, heading a procession of eighteen wagons loaded with his personal property.

Co-operation in Farming.

The one chief advantage of large farms is that their owners are thereby enabled to employ abundant help and keep it constantly employed, and also to secure greater returns from agricultural implements, reaping machines, grain drills, &c. Most of these advantages can just as well be secured by a system of co-operation among neighboring farmers, making one mowing machine or reaper cutter as much ground as if it were owned by a thousand acre farmer, having one corn sheller used in common in a neighborhood, and having three or four farmers club together, changing works when a stress of harvesting or other pressing work makes it necessary. I know many places where this is done, generally where a father has settled three or four sons on farms of their own in his neighborhood. Each manages for himself, but each is ready to turn in and help when it becomes necessary. It is always noticed that farmers working thus in common are unusually prospered, and there can be no doubt that the co-operative principle is to be credited with their greater success. In fact, some such way as this is the only means by which expensive labor-saving machinery can be profitably used on small farms. Fifty or seventy-five acres is not enough land to warrant buying a reaper or mower, which ought, with care, to cut that number of acres yearly. And yet the labor saved is proportionably as great on the small farm as on the large one.

The common advice to farmers, not to borrow, is not applicable to such cases. It is better sometimes to hire an implement that is needed three or four days in the year, than to own it. The interest on cost is the smallest part of the loss. Implements not needed to run the farm are rarely put under cover in winter, and one or two seasons sees the new mower or reaping machine a perfect wreck, having never done enough work to pay its cost.

Here in Western New York, most of the spring grain, and nearly all the wheat, is sown by a drill, and yet not one farmer in ten owns a grain drill. Most of them are forehanded enough to do so, but it is not worth while. Those who do own a drill make a profitable use of it, bringing it out at 25c to 50c per acre, among their neighbors, not half of whom would pay yearly as much as the interest on the cost. A drill, carefully housed when not used, should last ten or fifteen years, and in a good neighborhood will pay its cost in two or three years, besides working gratis for its owner. Of late years, farmers have got into the use of superphosphate drilled in with grain, and a drill adapted to that purpose is in demand, even among those who have a drill without the guano attachment. If any of our readers, in sections where grain drills are not used, think of buying one the coming season, I should certainly advise them to buy one with fertilizer attachment. The cost is only a little more, and it is useful for drilling phosphate, ashes or gypsum with the seed, doing it much more evenly than is possible by hand sowing.

Few Eastern farmers own threshing machines. This work is mostly done by men who make a business of it three or four months in the fall, going through a town threshing out the grain; following a little later to clean out the clover seed, and later still with cutting-box to cut cornstalks and other coarse feed. or power and saw to saw in one day fifteen to twenty cords of wood. Most of these operations are least expensively performed when the farmer does not himself own the machinery, and it is far cheaper to hire any one of them done by horse-power than to have it done by hand.—*WESTERN NEW YORK.*
—*Prairie Farmer.*

The Great Sewing Machine Combination Defeated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.

The Senate Committee on Patents has decided to report adversely on the application of A. B. Wilson for an extension of the patent for the four-motion feed for sewing machines, which has been pending before Congress for the past two years. This patent was issued in June 1852, and is the most valuable patent extant in connection with sewing machines. The merits of this feed are as follows: First—The feed-bar, or pad, is given a forward motion to carry the cloth to the needle. Second—A downward motion to release the cloth from the grip of the feed. Third—A backward motion to the extent of the length of the stitch. Fourth—An upward motion to take a fresh hold on the cloth. This four-motion feed is so valuable that no cloth-sewing machines are made without it. The combination owing the patent embraces the owners of the Wheeler & Wilson, Wilcox & Gibbs, Singer, and Howe Companies. It has served to bind these manufacturers together, and has enabled them to defy all competition, and they are now striving to maintain the monopoly of the feed by having the patent extended for a period of seven years by act of Congress. The invention has realized for the inventor several million dollars, and Singer admits that he has realized from his patents, which are much less important than the four-feed patent, two million dollars since 1870. Since that year he has not been required to make return of his profits. The extension of the patent for another twenty years would be worth about twenty millions of dollars to the owners, and would cost the public fully four times as much more, for reason of perpetuating the monopoly. An immense number of petitions against the extension has been filed, and volumes of testimony have been taken in regard to it. One exhibit alone makes twelve volumes as large as Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which the owners of the patent once requested

the Commissioner of Patents to peruse before making a decision. The failure of the extension, it is claimed, will have the effect of reducing the price of sewing-machines to twenty dollars. There is evidence showing that the cost of the average sewing machine is about twelve dollars, and that small manufacturers are forced to pay to the combination for the use of the feed forty dollars on each machine manufactured. It is a curious fact that Wheeler & Wilson's machines can be purchased in Europe and imported to this country for about one-half the prices they now cost here, the reason being that those machines have no protection in Europe and can be manufactured by any person.—*Cor. N. Y. Times.*

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