

TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

O. B. Tellinghaas
State Librarian
Boston

Forty-Second Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, December 25, 1909.

No. 15. Price Four Cents

An Actual Fact

3856 MILES for \$74.27. This is the number of miles run by a model 10 Buick from May 8th until Nov. 1st. The price included all repairs, and all supplies, fuel, oil, gas tank, etc. The car was run through all kinds of weather day and night, and was not laid up a single day. Who can beat this? The owner lives in Ayer.

E. O. PROCTOR, Ayer, Mass.

Exclusive Buick Agent for Ashby, Townsend, Pepperell, Groton, Dunstable, Harvard, Littleton, Shirley and Ayer.

Ayer Automobile Station

Robert Murphy & Sons, Props.

Automobiles and Supplies

FULL EQUIPPED MACHINE SHOP WITH FIRST-CLASS REPAIRMEN
VULCANIZING DEPT.

RETREADING, SECTIONAL AND TUBE WORK

BICYCLES, TIRES AND SUNDRIES

East Main St., Ayer, Mass.

Phones: Day 86-3, Night 86-5.

Darling's Studio

HEADQUARTERS FOR CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHS

Having recently opened my NEW STUDIO over A. F. Parker's News Store, I am now ready to make Photos in all the latest and most Up-to-Date Styles and at the most reasonable prices.

L. F. DARLING

Tel. Con.

East Pepperell, Mass.

HARVARD.

News Items.

Walter S. Lougee was playing 'cello with an orchestra from Fitchburg at a reception in a hall next to the town hall in Leominster, Wednesday evening, when that building caught fire and had to leave in darkness as the lights soon after the alarm was given went out. It was with some difficulty that he was able to get together his things.

Master Warren P. Flynn, the three-year-old son of Frank and Hannah Flynn of West Bare hill, died on Thursday of last week, after being for some time sick with spinal meningitis. Funeral was held on Saturday afternoon, at one o'clock at the home. Interment at St. Mary's cemetery, Ayer, R. M. Lindley having charge of the services.

A home is still wanted for the Afternoon Whist club.

Edwin F. Houghton, proprietor of the cooper shop, was operated on last week for appendicitis and is at the latest reports doing as well as can be expected. The operation was the result of several attacks of this trouble, the last one being of such severity that an operation was necessary. Mr. Houghton is a man of rugged constitution and it is only a matter of time when he will be about his duties again.

Miss Putnam is taking her week's vacation in New Hampshire.

Friday evening, December 31, promises to be one of the best on the Warner lecture course. J. Clifford Starbuck will speak on "Nature's message to man," and is sure to leave with his hearers something to remember. The social club who engaged the hall for the same evening for their new year's dance are still game and will have their dance from 9.30 to one o'clock.

Rev. J. P. Sheafe will conduct the Sunday Christmas service on Sunday, December 26. Christmas service by Rev. H. B. Mason was held on last Sunday. Both churches observe Christmas eve on Friday evening at the usual time and place.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barry of Schenectady, N. Y., are guests at W. H. Arbank's this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Atwood of Fehburg are with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gale.

The postoffice department are sending out notice through the R. F. D. carriers to patrons of the routes to discourage the putting in of loose coppers in the mail boxes for stamp supplies, especially in winter. This is a punishment to the carriers, who not only suffer from the cold, but also from actual loss by coins dropped in the snow.

The Evening Whist club held their first party at I. O. O. F. hall on Tuesday evening of last week. The ladies, first prize, Helen Barnard; booby, Susie Whitney. The gents, first, Fred Dickson; booby, Stowell Davis.

Still River.

There will be a Christmas concert in the Baptist vestry Sunday evening, Thursday evening "the district school blueberry corner" will be given in the chapel. There are over twenty pupils, some of them being the scholars of many summers ago, it wouldn't be proper to say just how many, but come and judge for yourself. There will be no supper at this entertainment, but a fee will be charged at the door.

Mrs. Frank Sprague attended the funeral of an uncle in Salem, Tuesday.

Mrs. Adeliza A. Turner is visiting her brother in Holyoke.

Frank Ryan has sold his farm at Cumberly pond and will have to get out about the middle of January.

Lester B. Keyes of Springfield was the guest of his mother and brother last Saturday.

PEPPERELL.

About Town.

George S. Adams of West Pepperell has appeared out with a nice pair of heavy gray team horses.

Several from Pepperell attended the meeting of the Massachusetts State Grange at Springfield the past week. Among the number are Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dennen, Mrs. L. E. Starr, Miss Bertha Farnsworth, Walter Shattuck.

The young couple who arrived here the other morning from Sutton, N. H., with the intention of taking upon themselves the responsibility of matrimony, experienced some difficulty in finding the right man to tie the knot. After many fruitless efforts they finally succeeded in reaching Rev. Putnam Webber of the Methodist church, who performed the ceremony.

L. A. Boynton is building a bungalow for Waltham parties near the cozy bungalow of the Misses Hamilton and Pinkham on Lebanon street.

Miss Luella Parker is working during the holiday season at Charles Swasey's store.

A pleasant little surprise party was planned for Miss Sarah Parker on her seventy-seventh birthday. Many of her friends called during the afternoon of Friday, December 17, leaving pretty gifts and good wishes. A tea was served at five o'clock.

The annual club supper was held at the Congregational church, Thursday evening, December 16. About three hundred were present. Abundance of provisions were provided and a good sum realized toward the expense of keeping the town clock in repair.

Thayer's orchestra of this town played at Tyngsborough for a dance last Thursday evening.

Wilford Attridge, son of Richard Attridge, passed away Sunday evening, December 19. There was mass at St. Joseph church, Tuesday.

The public schools closed Friday for a Christmas vacation of two weeks.

It is said that Miss Harriet Morgan has rented Oliver Nash's tenement on River street. She will keep house for her two sisters and will still continue to care for the sick patient under her charge.

HOLLIS, N. H.

News Items.

A Christmas tree and entertainment will be given in the town hall on Friday evening.

Miss Julia Bell of Hardwick, Vt., sister of the late Ex-Gov. Bell of Vermont, is stopping at Miss Lizzie Worcester's.

Leo E. McEnnis was in Boston on Wednesday.

The schools, which have been closed on account of diphtheria for several weeks, will begin Monday, December 27.

Henry A. Wilson is blasting for a well on the land of T. A. Greenleaf.

The longest railroad train ever pulled by a single engine left Roanoke, Va., December 18, over the Virginian railroad, consisting of 120 steel coal hoppers, each forty-four feet long, and loaded with coal. The train measured six feet over a mile.

Useful Christmas Gifts

Just at this time of the year there's many a person who is wondering "what to give a man or boy for Christmas." A few Christmas suggestions:

Sweaters and Sweater Coats	50c. to \$2.00	Neckwear	25c. and 50c.
Umbrellas	50c. to \$2.50	Cuff Links	25c., 50c., \$1.00
Cuff Links and Pin to match	75c. and \$1.00	Mufflers	50c. and \$1.00
Gloves of all Kinds	25c. to \$5.00		
Handkerchiefs, all Kinds, both Plain and Initial, from	5c. to 50c.		
Slippers	50c. to \$2.00		

These are only a few suggestions; we are unable to catalogue the whole stock; come in and see them.

D. W. FLETCHER & SON, Opposite Depot, AYER, MASS.

Items of Interest.

Diphtheria germs are long-lived. Several members of a family living near Toronto were taken ill with diphtheria. Afterwards the house was thoroughly fumigated and repapered. One of the first things done was to tear off the old wall paper, and as soon as this was accomplished several of the occupants of the house were stricken with malignant diphtheria, although there was not a single case in the neighborhood.

THE BOSTON TRANSCRIPT AND ITS CHARACTER.

Guide of the Home and Companion of the Evening Lamp.

The great praise of the TRANSCRIPT is that it reflects not only good Boston, but also better Boston. There can be no higher crown of achievement for the daily newspaper. It is the straight and narrow way, and few there be who find it in journalism. How many other instances are there in America? They are easily countable. Send for sample copies.

A Substitute.

The young lawyer, having been nominated for the office of county attorney, thought to surprise an eccentric genius of the name of Si who was working as a hired man on the young lawyer's father's farm.

"Well, Si, what do you think?" the young man began.

"Sometimes one thing, Lonny, an' sometimes 'nother."

"But, Si, they have nominated me for county attorney."

"They might 'a' done worse, Lonny. Howsomever, don't holler till you're out of the woods."

The young attorney was duly elected and on his next visit to the farm announced the fact unctuously to Si, who was at the wood pile, saw in hand.

"Well, Si, I am elected by a large majority. What do you think of that?"

"Well, Lonny, down in our parts, where I was raised, when we wanted a stapper an' hadn't any cork we generally took a corncob."—Exchange.

Practicing on Wooden Legs.

Of the five cases in the accident ward that were pronounced cured at the same time three remained in the hospital more than a week after the other two had gone home.

"They had to stay," said an interne "to get used to their wooden legs. It takes some time to learn to manage them, and most men who will have to peg along with them for the rest of their natural lives stay in the hospital several days after they get well to practice stumping around on their new legs. Of course they can learn outside, but the man who has just acquired a wooden leg feels so awkward and is so likely to fall down and break the other leg or an arm or maybe his neck that we prefer to keep him here so he can take his first lessons under our supervision."—New York Press.

Thousand Islands.

The Lake of the Thousand Islands is forty miles long and varies from four to seven miles in width. It is both a continuation of Lake Ontario and the beginning of the St. Lawrence river. The Thousand Islands are really about 1,700 in number, big and little. Many of them are favorite summer resorts, with hotels and boarding houses of rich Americans and Canadians. The voyage through them is picturesque, and many of the islands are illuminated at night.

Who Voted?

Benjamin Franklin once discussed the property qualification for voting in Pennsylvania. A man owned a donkey of sufficient value to enable him to vote, but before the next election the donkey died, and the man's vote was refused. "Now," asked Franklin, "who voted at the previous election, the man or the donkey?"

New Advertisements.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of IRVING J. WETHERBEE, late of Groton, in said County, deceased, Intestate.

Whereas, a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to ERNEST R. COOPER of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the fourth day of January, A. D. 1910, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any, you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Groton Landmark, a newspaper published in said County, the last publication to be on the day at least, before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McInnis, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this sixteenth day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine.

3w14 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

Geo. F. Brown
RELIABLE CLOTHIER AYER, MASS.



Overcoats

If you want the Best Values, the Choicest Styles and the Greatest Variety in

Heavy Winter Overcoats

then come to this Store.

In Our Stock will be found many of the Popular Styles shown this Season.

Our Line of

Fur Coats

AND

Fur-Lined Coats

is very complete and worthy of your attention.

We have a very attractive line of

Overcoats for Young Men and Boys

made in the very Latest Styles.

MEN'S OVERCOATS--Regular Overcoats, cut 42 inches long. The fabrics are Black Kersey and Vicuna. Strictly High Grade Garments. Sizes, 34 to 44.

Prices, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 and \$20.00

YOUNG MEN'S OVERCOATS--Overcoats for Young Men, cut in the very latest styles, many with the new Presto or Military Collars. The fabrics are the new fancy mixtures so popular this season. All very stylish and well-made garments. Sizes, 32 to 38.

Prices, \$8.47, \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00

FUR-LINED OVERCOATS--Men's Fur-Lined Overcoats, made with Kersey or Astrakan outside and lined with Dog Skin, Marmot or Muskrat. The Collars are made of Marmot and Blended Muskrat. Splendid values.

Prices, \$28.00 \$35.00, \$50.00 and \$60.00.

FUR COATS--Men's Fur Outside Coats, made from Dog Skin, Calf Skin, Horse Hide, Galloway and Raccoon Skins.

Prices, \$20.00, \$28.00, \$30.00 and \$60.00.

DRIVING COATS--Men's Heavy Driving Coats, made from Montana Buffalo and Astrakan Cloth. They are made with large storm collars and are wind proof and storm proof.

Prices, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00.

BOYS' OVERCOATS--We are showing the new models in Boys' and Children's Overcoats.

Prices, Ages 3 to 10--\$1.98 to \$5.00. Ages 10 to 16--\$3.47 to \$10.00

SHEEP-LINED COATS--We have a full line of Men's Sheepskin-Lined and Blanket-Lined Short Coats. The outside is made from Corduroys and Heavy Ducks. Also, Leather and Corduroy Reversible Coats, some with Corduroy Collars, and some with Fur Collars.

Prices, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.47.

Calendar Week.

During the coming week you will find displayed in our window several very beautiful Calendars for 1910.

They are reproductions of beautiful and costly paintings by well-known artists.

You will want one of these Calendars after you have seen them and realize their value.

You can get one free by visiting our store and making a purchase of \$1.00 or upward.

Our out-of-town customers who may find it inconvenient to come to our store next week can have a Calendar reserved for them by dropping us a postal card.

Adds wholesomeness to the food.

Cleveland's Baking Powder

Makes the finest grained and lightest breads and cake.

Published every Saturday by John H. Turner, Ayer, Mass.
ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.

To All Advance Paying Subscribers One Dollar.

Subscribers are urged to keep their subscriptions paid in advance.

WATCH THE DATE OF YOUR PAPER.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Ayer, Mass.

Saturday, December 25, 1909.

WESTFORD.

Center.

Interesting Christmas exercises were held at the Frost school last Friday afternoon before the school closed for the holiday vacation. These exercises were planned and carried out by the capable corps of teachers, Misses Fisher, Grant, Cushing and Burnham, and were not only enjoyed by the pupils but many interested parents and friends. There were two trees, one in Miss Fisher's room and one in Miss Grant's room. Boxes of candy were given to each pupil by the teachers, and there was an interchange of many other presents. Albert Dege personated Santa Claus. A mammoth snow ball made of cotton and filled with many smaller snow balls, each containing gifts, were dispensed by Harry Sears, dressed as the frost king. Suitable music and appropriate decorations were also features of this pleasant occasion.

Mrs. Martha F. Cooper has been spending several days in town, the guest of Miss Emily F. Fletcher. Mrs. Cooper was present at the meeting of the Tadmuck club, Tuesday afternoon, of which organization she was a charter member.

Dr. and Mrs. O. V. Wells welcomed a baby daughter into their home, Sunday of this week.

William Fifield has been visiting at the home of his sister, Mrs. William L. Woods.

Mrs. M. J. Wheeler and Mrs. L. W. Wheeler were invited guests at the Middlesex Woman's club, Lowell, Monday, and enjoyed a lecture by Miss Mary Morris, daughter of William Morris, the craftsman, on "Pageantry and the masque."

Edmund Baker is seriously ill at this writing with congestion of the lungs.

Rev. A. R. Atwood of Quincy, who made such a pleasing impression here two weeks ago, again occupied the pulpit at the Congregational church, Sunday, and conducted the evening service in the vestry. Mr. Marshall occupied Mr. Atwood's pulpit at Quincy. Mr. Atwood is just accepting a call to a large and desirable church in Patterson, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian A. Cameron returned this week from a delightful trip to Bermuda.

Miss Edith Babbitt, teacher at the academy, finished her term of service here when school closed for the Christmas vacation. Miss Babbitt resigns to presently reside over a home of her own. This is the second year she has been in our midst, and she takes with her the good wishes of many friends.

Robert S. Young, who spent the summer at W. J. Merritt's, is seriously ill at Arlington.

Mrs. W. M. Wright is convalescent from her severe and serious attack of heart trouble.

Grange.

At the last meeting of the grange for the old year there was a good attendance, and a varied and interesting program. At the business session details of the coming farmers' institute were arranged for. The retiring master, A. H. Sutherland, gave a carefully prepared report of the sessions of the state grange which he with Mrs. Sutherland had just attended at Springfield. The lecturer's hour opened with music by the grange orchestra, after which a peanut hunt was indulged in, creating considerable fun. Miss Elizabeth Cushing found the largest number and received a prize. After this came a good old-fashioned game of drop-the-handkerchief. The evening closed with selections by the orchestra. At the first meeting in January the newly-chosen officers will be installed by Walter A. Morris of Billerica, assisted by Mrs. L. M. Hutchins, also of Billerica. This will be followed by the annual installation supper.

Circular to Postmasters.

The fourth assistant postmaster general, who has charge of the rural delivery division, has addressed a circular to all postmasters from whose offices is a rural delivery route, calling attention to the custom of rural patrons depositing coins in rural boxes for payment for postage on mail, instead of purchasing stamps of the carriers and affixing them to this mail. From a recent count made by rural carriers in one of the counties in the state of New York, it was found that each carrier in the county was collecting each week an average of 115 one-cent coins which had been deposited in the boxes of patrons for the purchase of stamp supplies. This average applied to all the routes in operation throughout the country would give the enormous total of 300,000,000 one-cent coins. As most of the coins are deposited loose in the boxes the carrier is obliged to make careful search in the boxes to find the required amount. This results in needless hardship and suffering to the carriers in winter weather and delays the delivery and

collection of the mails and frequently results in actual loss to the carriers, for if in collecting coins from boxes they drop them in snow on the ground without recovery, they are required to replace them from their own funds. The patrons of rural routes have no reasonable excuse for doing so, as the carriers are well provided with stamp supplies which can be purchased of them in advance of their needs. In case the coins have to be used the patrons should equip their boxes with suitable coin-holding receptacles. With two rural routes from the office in Westford, one of twenty and one of twenty-five miles, Postmaster Fletcher asks the patrons to do all they can to help make the duties of the carriers as easy as possible. A little thoughtfulness on the part of the patrons will be much appreciated by the rural carriers.

Tadmuck Club.

In view of the fact that it was the busy Christmas week there was a good attendance of the members present at the meeting of the Tadmuck club, Tuesday afternoon, which was held in the parlors of the Unitarian church.

It was one of a number of a pleasant interchange of courtesies between this club and our neighboring club in Littleton, for the speaker of the afternoon was Mrs. Grace Lawrence, who is a member of that club and she gave a talk on "Merrie England," which was much appreciated. Mrs. Lawrence spent three months in England this last summer, and her penetration of her impressions of that country were given with much keen discrimination.

In an informal and charming way Mrs. Lawrence told of many things about England and English people. She called it "Merrie England," because while many of us have the belief that English people are deficient in a sense of humor, they are withal a cheerful people with a love of holidays and sports, giving as an illustration some account of the famous boating regatta at Henley.

England's class distinctions, climate, temperance conditions, wages, the home life, roads and shops were among some of the sub-topics interestingly presented. The speaker also described some motor cycle trips to some of England's famous historical spots, among them being a description of Stratford-on-Avon with views.

Mrs. Lawrence's contribution to the club's program will be remembered and appreciated as one of the good things on the season's calendar.

An enjoyable club tea was served at the close of the program in charge of Miss Eva E. Fletcher, Mrs. John Feeney and Miss Mary Moran.

The next meeting, January 4, will be the first of a number of meetings given to the study of Alaska. The subject of this meeting will be "Alaska: Topographical features." Chairman, Miss Emily F. Fletcher.

New Library Books.

The following new books for children have been added to the library: Bailey, C. S. Firelight stories. \$23-B16. Bryce, C. T. Child-love reader. \$508.8-B4. Burnett, F. H. Racketty-packetty house. \$23-B15. Canfield, F. A. C. Kidnapped campers. 1936. Day, H. F. Eagle hadre. 1005A. Gilman, M. L. Little folk tales. \$372.4-G. Greene, H. Lincoln conscript. 1035. Johnson, A. F. Little Colonel stories. 293K. Montgomery, L. M. Anne of green gables. 1934. Pake, T. N. Tommy Trot's visit to Santa Claus. \$21A. Pierson, C. D. Millers at Pencroft. \$82A. Potter, B. Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher. \$23-P7. Potter, B. Tale of Mrs. Tiggy Winkle. \$23-P8. Rankin, C. W. Adopting of Rosa Marie. \$51B.

About Town.

Mrs. Mary E. Reed died at the Lowell hospital, last Sunday afternoon. The remains were brought to Forge Village on the noon train, Wednesday. Burial was in the West cemetery, under the direction of Undertaker Gray. Mrs. Reed will be remembered as an old-time resident of Graniteville, being the widow of George Reed, who for many years was associated in the granite business with his brothers, William and David. Mrs. Reed leaves one son, Frederick B. Reed and two sisters, Mrs. D. Ellen Flanders of Lowell and Mrs. Rachel W. Reed of Graniteville. She had arrived at the age of four score and two.

Services appropriate for Christmas and the closing year will be held in the vestry of the Unitarian church, Sunday evening, at the hour of seven. The children of the Sunday school and the aged and infirm of the parish will receive at this time the usual Christmas greetings and remembrances. Rev. Benjamin H. Bailey will lead as inspirational guide.

That old-time and reliable apple buyer, Nelson Conant of Littleton, was in town the early part of the week, buying apples for the southern market. The prices offered were \$2.25 per barrel, but the farmers, being offered more in harvest time, were not rushing selling orders on a shrinkage price and shrinkage quantity, but for all this a carload will soon be loaded at East Littleton.

It is now open season for fishing at Forge pond, and like "making hay when the sun shines," every available fish line is being baited in hopes that it will be weighted. Such a dash in this line for pickerel fine, as they are switched through the icy holes, without the usual summer tetering poles. It is a question which there is the most of left as a trade mark, ice or holes.

Horace E. Gould is making preparations to cut a large lot of lumber bordering on Keyes pond. This lot includes the old Morrison farm and part of the Gould homestead. Daniel H. Sheehan, cider and cloth manufacturer, has the contract for sawing. This will necessitate the removal of his portable mill from Maynard, where it has been having a rusting vacation.

John A. Healy is busy hauling logs to the sawmill at Westford. This lumber will be used in the construction of his new barn.

Alvin Palley still continues in an unimproved condition, and nature does not seem to encourage the expectation of length of years, now at this season of usual lengthening of days.

The new house of Augustus Whidden, on the Groton road near Senator Fletcher's quarry, is nearly ready for inhabitants. It adds grandeur to the whole Oak hill region. There are now ten houses on the Groton road in Westford and Chelmsford in the Oak hill region. This is a case of "the wilderness blossoming as a rose."

Senator Fletcher's stone quarry industry and the passing of the Lowell and Fitchburg electric railroad have been twin factors in this added wealth.

Senator Fletcher's family have returned from the New York pleasure trip. The village life of Westford corner and the sunny slopes of Oak hill are more cheery and entertaining on this Christmas season.

Congratulations to Dr. Wells and family. Sorry it is not a voter kind. Extend the right is the proper remedy.

Forge Village.

E. Hillard, master at Groton school and superintendent of the Sunday school here, and his assistant, Mr. Gardner, who so cleverly impersonated Santa Claus, came from Groton in the afternoon to decorate the Christmas tree, and were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Carmichael at tea.

Excellent skating is to be found on Forge pond, which is frozen to a depth of several inches of black ice.

Several fishing parties from out-of-town have returned home well-repaid for their trouble. The Boyle brothers of Lowell caught a fine string of pickerel Wednesday. This is the first year fishing through the ice has been allowed since the pond was stocked five years ago.

Rev. Thomas J. Crosby of St. Luke's church, Malden, occupied the pulpit at St. Andrew's mission, Sunday, December 19. He preached a forcible and interesting sermon, taking for his subject, "And a little child shall lead them."

The Ladies' sewing circle will postpone their weekly meetings until after the Christmas holidays.

The mills here will be closed from Friday evening until Monday, December 27.

Christmas Exercises.

The annual Christmas tree exercises of the Sunday school children of St. Andrew's mission was held in Recreation hall, Monday evening, and was attended by a large number, for the Christmas tree has an attraction for young and old. The tree, which was handsomely decorated and laden with gifts of every description, occupied a prominent part in the hall. A very pleasing program was given by the children, which consisted of readings, piano solos, duets and were well applauded. At the conclusion Santa Claus suddenly made his appearance and was greeted with shouts of laughter, and the greatest excitement prevailed for a short time, as Santa, dressed in his fur coat and cap and long white whiskers, insisted upon shaking hands with all the children, as he briefly told them of the long journey he had made in order to reach all the children before Christmas was over. This large bag was opened and the presents were quickly distributed. There were sleds, skates, games of every description for the small boys, dolls, work baskets and many dainty articles so dear to hearts of the little girls, while the larger ones and Sunday school teachers received beautifully bound books by well-known authors. No one was forgotten. But all things must come to a close, so Santa after wishing everyone a very happy Christmas, said he must hurry away and left for parts unknown, leaving nothing but joy and happiness. Every child also received a large box of candy.

Graniteville.

The skating has been fine on the mill pond during the past few days, and the young people have enjoyed it to the limit. On last Saturday afternoon a spirited game of hockey was played between the mill and shop team, and both clubs were very evenly matched. During the past few moonlight nights great crowds have assembled every evening and enjoyed excellent skating under ideal weather conditions.

The children of the M. E. church Sunday school held their Christmas tree exercises in the church on Friday evening. The program will be given later.

On Christmas morning mass will be celebrated in St. Catherine's church at 9.45 o'clock.

The children in the first and second primary grades of the Sargent school held a very pleasing entertainment and Christmas tree on Friday afternoon, December 17, the last day of school before the Christmas vacation. The tree was set up in Miss Dunn's room, and a very nice time was enjoyed by all. Each child present received some pretty gift with the usual box of candy. The whole affair was in charge of the primary teacher, Miss Mary A. Dunn and Miss Frances Baumister, who deserved a word of praise for their untiring efforts in making the little ones happy.

Dr. S. Lees Joslin, formerly of this village, who has been absent in the west for several months, made a brief visit here this week while on his way home to spend Christmas with his parents in Lyndeboro, N. H. The doctor is greatly improved in health, and appears to be highly pleased with the western country.

Dr. W. H. Sherman has recently returned from a brief visit spent at his former home in Demariscotta, Me.

Christmas Concert.

The Christmas exercises for the Sunday school children of St. Catherine's church was held in the church on Wednesday evening, and was very largely attended. The children all did finely in their respective parts, which reflects great credit on Miss Catherine Conley, who had general charge of arrangements, assisted by Miss Fanny McCarthy and Miss Hattie O'Brien. Joe Wall made an ideal "Santa Claus," and pleased the children very much. The success of the whole affair rests in a great measure to the kindness of the Abbot Worsted Co., who sent a substantial check, that enabled the committee to provide some suitable gift for every child present. The thoughtful and generous act is deeply appreciated by the members of St. Catherine's parish. Following is the program:

"Let the bells of Christmas ring," by the children; "Christmas," Rosie McCullough; "Long ago on Christmas," Bella Eli; "Getting ready," Ed. Soha; "Teas, the morning star," Isidore Boucher; "Glad on Christmas," Perfano Pirato; song, "The little babe," by the children; "Christmas offering," Hattie Boyden; "Cand on Christmas," Ruby McCarthy, Margaret Healy, Claire Payne, Josephine Socha, Alice Heroux, Dorothy Shugrue, Alice Gower; "There came a little child," Emily Dion; "Christmas night," Harold Connell; "Christmas stockings," Leo Provost; Raymond Wall; Gerald Deane; vocal solo, "For the angels sang," E. J. McCarthy; "The Christmas we like," Drina Gagnon, Dora Lamie; "Christmas wish," Bernadette Glad; "Joy of Christmas," Eugene Maloney; "My help in him," Della Parmenton; "Why bells for Christmas ring," Thomas Elliot; "Christmas story," John Provost, Chas. Douglass, Freddie Healy, John Payne; "Christmas bells," Albert Reeves; "Christmas wish," Claire Payne; "Christmas star," Delores Jasamin; "Santa," Laura Couture; song, "Ring the Jay bells," by the children.

Gets Leading Opinion.

The question of the right of a street railway company to discontinue some or part of its line has frequently been considered. To those interested in the subject, corporations and individuals, the following may be of interest:

Legal advice obtained by the town is that the Norton and Taunton street railway cannot be compelled to reopen its line to the Easton branch.

At the annual town meeting a resolution was passed that the selectmen use their best efforts to cause the Norton and Taunton street railway to resume operation of its Mansfield and Easton branch, the board to employ legal means if necessary.

To Easton at the usual assemblage of the town it was voted to take similar steps and to petition the supreme court for reopening of the line if it could be brought about in no other way.

A few months ago the Norton and Taunton company put in effect the move which had for some time shown an abandonment of the branch. The company claimed that it had experienced a drain on that part of the system long enough.

The town engaged as counsel Samuel J. Eider of Boston. In reply to the selectmen's question as to whether the company can be compelled to operate the Easton branch, and, if such cannot be done, what course the town should pursue, has replied in part: "We understand from the clerk of the selectmen that the reason for the discontinuance of this branch is the fact that it can only be operated at a loss to the company. We are, therefore, compelled to answer your first question (can the road be compelled to operate) in the negative, and we regard the case of the selectmen of Amesbury vs. Citizens' electric street railway company as controlling."

An examination of the location granted by your body for the Mansfield and Easton street railway shows no contractual obligation upon the part of the company to continue operation.

The counsel still further states that the town reserves the right to remove the rails from the streets at the expense of the company.

Selectman W. Barker yesterday interviewed the counsel for the town of North Easton, and he expressed views coinciding with those of Mr. Eider.

When asked today whether the selectmen would remove the rails at the expense of the company, chairman Gardner said he did not deem it advisable to do so at present. "If the rails are taken up the chances are not favorable to another road being built through East Mansfield. If the rails are left some company may some time get possession and operate it. I understand that New York states are willing to purchase the whole Norton and Taunton system and operate the branch, but are not ready to take the branch without the main line."

The incident here stated occurred several months ago. Up to the present time the town has not appealed to the railroad commissioners.

New Advertisements.



Fur Hats
Like Cut
In Brown and Black
Coney at \$1.25

The style and price here quoted is but a hint of what we are showing.

Geo. L. Davis
Ayer, Mass.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Townsend National Bank will be held at their Banking Rooms on Monday, January 3, 1910, at ten o'clock, a. m., to choose a Board of Directors for the year ensuing, and act upon any business that may legally come before said meeting.

HENRY A. HILL, Cashier.
Townsend, Mass., Dec. 6, 1909. 3w14

FOR SALE—One Plymouth Rock Cockerel and Twelve Hens, \$10; and fifteen White Plymouth Rock Cockerels. MRS. R. C. DAVIS, Harvard, Mass. 1317

TO RENT—House on Groton St., East Pepperell; eight rooms; town water. Apply to JOS. BERGEN, East Pepperell, Mass. 1417

WANTED.—A Second-Hand Safe, good condition, at price to 319 WEST, Harvard, Mass.



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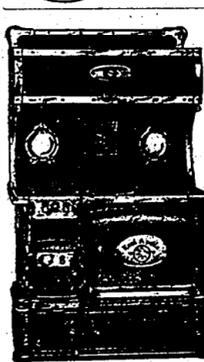
IN AUTOMOBILING, as in all other things, you must always be ready to meet the unexpected.

If something goes wrong or breaks in the running mechanism of your car, the quickest way to reach a garage is by TELEPHONE.

Then, too, if you're on a trip and want to order a dinner, arrange for the night, find out about the road ahead, or send back some word you forgot to say in starting, a Blue Bell Sign by the roadside assures you that there is a telephone nearby that will connect you with any possible point in the great Bell System.



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Oculist Prescriptions filled. Open Wednesday and Saturday Evenings. Will call at your residence on request. Tel. 12-3.

Every Saturday Evening

BIOGRAPH
Moving
Pictures

Page Hall, Ayer

Special Feature for Xmas

THE MYSTERY OF THE SLEEPER TRUNK

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

Of a First-class Ballad Singer, recently with an Opera Company, from Lowell

HARVARD.

To the Editor:

From time to time we have read with pleasure the doings and deliberations of various historical organizations in the towns where your paper circulates, and it occurred to us that some of your other readers might, in turn, be interested in a bundle of old papers which Edward Warren Houghton recently found among his possessions and very kindly brought for the writer's inspection.

The family line goes back to the time of the first William. If we remember correctly, and the ancestral home was Houghton Tower, a Tudor country house, in Lancashire, England. It had its proudest period about 1617, when Sir Richard Houghton there entertained King James I. The visit has been also remembered because of the claim made that here if anywhere did the joint of England receive its knighthood-Sir-Iohn.

The family history with which we have to do must have begun in the new world not far from this time, for in 1652 Ralph Houghton was one of four who first signed the Lancaster covenant.

It is said he came from Watertown, and was then about twenty-nine years of age. He was the first clerk of Lancaster. The date of his death at Milton is not known. In the division of land a portion was given him here in Salt River, and the family is the only one in town who has had unbroken possession ever since.

It is greatly to be regretted that the old deeds were in one of the former generations removed by a member of the family from the ancestral home and never returned. It was James, son of Ralph, who built the house here on land given him by his father. He was born in 1650, before the family came to the Nashaway plantation, and moved here from Lancaster Neck after the massacre of 1697.

A sister, Sarah, married Caleb Sawyer, and they also came to Harvard, Mr. Sawyer surviving all the pioneers, living until 1755. James had eight children, the second son, Ralph, was a soldier in the Arcadian expedition of 1710, and died in service; the third son, Thomas, came in possession of the place, and he married Moriah Moore, who survived him twenty-five years; their only son, Elijah, succeeded them, married Mercy Whitney, and had thirteen children, one of them, Cephas, was the next owner.

His wife was Sarah Whitney, and their wedded life was a long and happy one; their son, Edward Warren, is the present owner.

If the well-preserved ancestral home could only talk, what tales of the past it could tell! It shows evidence of having been built at different times, the western and the original garrison. The walls are some of them filled in solidly with brick and stone below the windows to resist the bullets.

The first chimney was of stone, and some of the earliest wood and workmanship faultless, doubtless the handiwork of its first owner, who was a carpenter. It is to him that the ancient papers belonged and relate to his offices as the constable of Lancaster.

The oldest paper is a half sheet, seven-and-a-half by four inches, so worn that it is in pieces. It is signed John Houghton, who was in some way related to James, and requires the latter "in his majesty's name to collect and pay to John Whiting what remains due" on the sums portioned out to the various men whose names, thirty-six in number, appear on the other side of the paper, the same being the "ministers Rate Anno Dom 1696."

Most of the names are of those who figure so largely in the history of Lancaster, to which Harvard and other of the adjacent territory then belonged. One of them was Peter Joslin, the site of whose home is still pointed out in Lancaster.

Coming home from his work one day he found the murdered bodies of his wife and children, a young woman, sister of his wife, was singing when the Indians arrived, and it is thought they were so much charmed by her voice that they carried her away captive to Canada, whence, after a long time, she was ransomed and came back to marry a former lover, while the redoubtable Peter was afterwards three times married, surviving his last wife into old age.

The schoolmaster seems to have been abroad and taken his speller with him, for our forebears practised phonetic spelling each according to his own ideas, as what follows proves. It is the warrant for town meeting, "Dated M Lancaster the ninth day of November 1697," and signed by the selectmen, four in number. Mr. James Houghton, constable, is ordered, "to warn the inhabitants of Lancaster consarned to meet at the meeting house on Monday next, at eath of the clok in the morning to consider and conclude of some way for procuring a minister, and also whether we need to make further application for the continuing the souldiers any longer than the set time; and to bring in an invois for the country Roat if the town then so agree; or any other thing the Town see need for to be don."

Another to the selectmen and constable "in the ninth year of his Majesties Reign King William, etc. signed Samuel Andrew Cowy, Treasurer, is in regard to the levy of one pound, fifteen shillings and four pence, the share of Lancaster in the county rate.

A large broad side in print has an abundance of capital letters and the old-fashioned long S, familiar in long-ago printing. At the top is the Lion and Unicorn coat of arms with "W. R." above it, and a very curious well-preserved seal; also "Province of the Massachusetts-Bay SS." It was issued in the name of James Taylor, Gent. Treasurer and Receiver General of His Majesties said Province, and his much flourished autograph appears at the end. It was caused by vote of the Great and General Court. "An Act, Fox granting unto his Majesty, A Tax of Six thousand Forty Pounds, Ten Shillings upon Polls and Estates," Lancaster's apportionment was ten pounds, ten shillings, and James Houghton, "constable or collector," was required to collect this within a set time, and if any neglected to pay he was to "distrein" the same, and according to minute directions in due time sell the "distress or distresses," pay the dues, and return any sum over to the distressed person. This is dated in Boston, December first, 1697, in the ninth year of King William third.

There are also a number of uncancelled notes which Mr. Houghton says he does not think he shall try to collect, most of them date back before the Revolution, and among the autographs appears that of Peter Atherton, the first Town clerk of Harvard, a large proportion of them ran to "Widow Moriah Houghton," the tradition of whose fine business capacity has come down through the family.

One of the papers seems to have been an inventory of property, though it has no beginning, and is therefore chiefly valuable for the names, one of them we note is that of Dennis Locklin. The family was quite numerous in Bolton at one time, and one of the range of hills in that town, continuing through Harvard, still bears the name, although somewhat corrupted in modern use into Lochlin.

The papers were found in an old stiff and mildewed leather pocketbook, which shows marks of former embellishment. This in turn was put into a little canvas bag on which is stuck an irregular bit of paper with the inscription, "Papers, Keep for their Antiquity sake, Bag and all."

KATHERINE L. LAWRENCE.

BROOKLINE, N. H.

News Items.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Elizabeth Beatrice Kennedy, to Clascen N. Ely of New York city.

Arthur Nye is at home from Mt. Hermon school for the holidays. Miss Gertrude Willey of Pepperell is a guest at the Powers' homestead.

Mrs. Nellie O'Connell has purchased the Misner cottage, and Charles Wilkins has bought the cottage recently occupied by Amede Houle, both owned by the heirs of J. A. Hall.

John McIsaac and family have moved to Milford. Principal Stephen T. Marshall will spend the holidays at Enfield.

James Works shot a buck, Wednesday, December 15. The total number reported during the deer season was six, three does and three bucks.

John Fales and family are in town for the winter and Mr. Fales is employed by Frank Taylor, chopping.

Born, December 15, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ouelletto, named Newell Lemere. This is the thirteenth child born to Mr. and Mrs. Ouelletto, of whom ten are living and at home.

A family reunion will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Nye, Christmas. Including Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nye, daughter Audrey and son Lawrence of Leominster, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Nye and daughter, Doris, Ruth and Constance of Sandown, Cassius R. Nye, New York city; Arthur Nye, Mt. Hermon school; Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wells and son James.

Miss Helen Pratt is enjoying the Christmas vacation at Contocook. Miss Mary L. Brown of Waltham will spend the Christmas vacation at the parental home.

Mrs. Julia Lawrence and son James of Pepperell are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Corey.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Pool of Rockland are holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chester B. Valedge.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Hall, Edward R. Pierce, Arthur Goss, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shattuck are among those who attended the state grange meeting at Manchester this week.

Mrs. Frances Cox Evans of Boston is at the maternal home for the Christmas season.

Hon. Frank Worcester, John A. Coburn of Hollis, Stephen Bacon of Greenville, James Russell of Mason, were in town, Saturday, relative to the appraisal of the real estate of the late James C. Parker. Samuel Swett was also one of the appraisers.

The addition at the icehouse is being wired for electric lights.

Fish and Game Commissioners Nathaniel Wentworth, Charles Clark and Frank Brown will hold a hearing at the selectmen's room, Tuesday afternoon, December 28, at two o'clock, relative to closing Lake Potanip in whole or in part and for what period of time, in order to protect the ice crop, while the same is being formed, cultivated, cut and harvested.

Stephen Marshall, Norman Spencer, Mrs. Bertha Braley, Nina Braley, Elizabeth Wilkins, Vinella Wright and Alton Jensen will unite with the Congregational church at the next communion.

The grammar, village and west primary schools closed last week Friday afternoon with interesting Christmas exercises. Trees laden with many gifts were found in the primary schools. Many visitors enjoyed the afternoon.

Miss Marion Stiles is at home from Nashua for the holidays. Joe Sargent, a well-known wood chopper, who has frequently been employed by O. D. Fessenden, chopping in the woods, was found drowned in the canal at Nashua last week.

Church Services. The Congregational Sunday school enjoyed a Christmas tree at the vestry, Friday evening, December 24. The little people at the Methodist church will be entertained with a tree, Saturday evening, at the auditorium of the M. E. church, and special Christmas services will be held at both churches Sunday morning. A Christmas concert will be given at the Congregational church at six o'clock in the evening, and at the Methodist church at seven o'clock.

TOWNSEND.

The Anson D. Fessenden camp, S. of V., and the Phoebe Weston Farmer tent, D. of V., held a joint meeting at Odd Fellows' hall, Monday evening. There was a very pleasing program, consisting of solos by Roy Wright and Mrs. Florence Gwinn; readings, A. N. Fessenden, Mrs. Florence Crowell and Mrs. Dr. A. J. Atwood; a piano solo, Mrs. Florence Cowdrey. Refreshments were served and a general good time was enjoyed by all. The feature of the evening was a "Joke Christmas tree," upon which was hung for each member some favorite article of jokes. Much laughter was caused by the jokes thus brought out.

Mrs. Mary Davis has entered upon her duties as housekeeper at Charles W. Hildreth's, and Mrs. Mary Sherwin is to be at her own home on Brookline street for awhile.

Monday evening, December 27, will be the evening for electing officers at the grange.

A boy was welcomed into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Christy Gates at Waltham, Saturday morning, December 18. Pastmasters Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Flarity and Master Abbie A. Barber attended the meeting of the National Grange at Springfield, last week.

At the request of the pastor, Rev. F. B. Harrison, a council of the Congregational church and society was called last Thursday to consider his dismissal as pastor here. It was voted to comply with his request.

Several members of the North Star lodge attended the funeral of George Dexter Richardson at Ashton, Sunday afternoon. He was a member of this lodge.

West. The public schools closed for a week's vacation on Friday afternoon, and the two schools united in public Christmas exercises with a very pleasing program, consisting of songs, readings and recitations, closing with the distributions of Christmas gifts.

Mrs. Edward Vivian of Joslyville is visiting her relatives in Roxbury and vicinity.

Quincy Adams has been on the sick list, and Mrs. Bliss from the Center is assisting at his home for the present.

Alexander Reed, who has been confined to his home by illness, is able to be about again.

A meeting of the Young People's Dramatic club was held at the home of Mrs. Justin C. Hodgman, and it was proposed to present the drama, "Lords of creation," as soon as it could be arranged.

The delivery station for the distribution of library books will not be open till January first, as next Saturday is Christmas day.

Miss Blanche Sprague, teacher of the grammar school, met with quite a serious accident while skating at Back pond, Thursday afternoon, being run against by parties with a sled and thrown some distance, striking on her back and causing her to be confined to the house for a number of days and delaying her visit to her home in Readsboro, Vt., for the Christmas vacation till Monday afternoon. Miss Mabel Thompson acted as substitute teacher on Friday.

Miss Ora B. Craig, who teaches at Lebanon, N. H., was at home for a brief visit the first of the week and accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Craig, to Troy, N. Y., where they will spend their holiday vacation.

The annual Christmas entertainment and tree for the Baptist Sunday school and the public in general was held in Seminary hall, Friday evening, and a pleasing program was prepared under the direction of the committee in charge, Walter Wilder, Miss Marion Kellogg and Mrs. Lois Vose.

The Christmas tree presented to the children of the public schools will be held in the hall from five to seven o'clock on Christmas afternoon, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Parsons.

Duncan Rusk and family are enjoying venison from a deer shot by Mr. Rusk, December 14, the shot injuring but not killing the animal at the time. Mr. Rusk followed for more than five miles, but was unable to get another shot, so gave up the chase and on Saturday, December 18, the deer was found dying on the ice of the river at the Center, and was dispatched by the game warden, and the carcass was claimed by Mr. Rusk, who recognized it as the one he had wounded a few days before.

Mrs. Tebbetts of Melrose is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Morgan.

It is expected that Rev. William Mason of Somerville will again occupy the Baptist pulpit, Sunday, December 26th.

HOLLIS, N. H.

News Items.

Miss Lucinda J. Read went to Lowell, last week Thursday, to care for her aunt, who is ill.

The schools in the outer districts closed last Friday for the Christmas vacation. The one at Fogg End, taught by Miss Helen Gray, had a Christmas tree with appropriate exercises.

Mrs. Gustave Kahn of Baltimore, Md. came last week Friday to spend several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. C. H. Davis.

The invitations are out for the annual church reunion and meeting, to be held in Grange hall, December 30. Business meeting at ten a. m. Dinner at twelve o'clock.

The Hollis W. C. T. U. met with Mrs. James Hills, Tuesday afternoon. In absence of president and vice-president, Mrs. Jewett presided. The union voted that the department of christian citizenship be added to those already taken up; voted that the next meeting be in the interest of the Sunday school department.

BOXBOROUGH.

News Items.

The morning service at the church Sunday was in observance of Forefathers' day. Dea. M. E. Wood read the compact, signed in the cabin of the Mayflower; Mrs. Viets read "The landing of the Pilgrims" by Mrs. Hemans; Dea. Hager read several appropriate quotations, after which Rev. F. H. Viets preached a sermon from the text, "They were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things, declare plainly that they seek a country." The songs were all patriotic.

Miss Edna Leland was a week-end guest at E. C. Mead's.

Sherman Houghton of Warwick visited his nephew, Gus Wetherbee, the last of the week.

The Girls' club went to Boston last Saturday, taking in the Christmas sights in the forenoon and attending the meeting in the afternoon.

Miss Mabel Wetherbee visited relatives in Somerville over Sunday.

Schools all closed Friday with the usual Christmas exercises in each room. A week's vacation is now in order.

January 3, Henry Lawrence will commence work for the same company that he was with before going

to Fitchburg. This week his furniture is being moved from Fitchburg to Belmont, where they are to reside.

Frank Page was a recent guest at Mrs. Anna Page's.

R. Y. Nelson has improved the looks of his buildings by a fresh coat of paint.

The personal property of John W. Smith will be sold at public auction at the Capt. Taylor place on Thursday, December 30, at twelve o'clock. H. D. Stone, auctioneer. Mr. Smith will spend the winter in Dorchester with his daughter.

LUNENBURG.

State Road.

Because they desire whatever state roads they may be able to secure in the vicinity of the village proper, the Lunenburg selectmen have given the Leominster selectmen to understand that they will not join in a petition for a state road between Shirley and Leominster. The road passes through Lunenburg and is used by Lunenburg people, but because it is not located near the village the selectmen will not favor it.

The attitude of the Lunenburg officials was somewhat surprising to the Leominster town fathers, because they have been counting upon the hearty support of the towns of Lunenburg, Shirley and Ayer in behalf of the petition which will be presented.

The attitude of the Lunenburg selectmen will make no difference in the determination of the Leominster board to secure the road. The petition will be presented, and every effort will be made to show the commission that the road is necessary.

POOR CHILDREN TO BE REMEMBERED WITH TOYS. Movement on Foot to Collect Toys for Less Fortunate Children Throughout the City.

Unique in the history of newspaperdom, the Power Day in the Boston Journal last July will long be a pleasant remembrance to thousands of little people in the poorer sections of greater Boston. Hundreds of thousands of bouquets sent in by Journal readers to the Journal office were arranged and sent out in big automobiles all over Boston, bringing a touch of nature to hearts hungry for a sight of its beauties.

Encouraged by the success of Flower Day and the kindly attitude of its readers, the Journal will again try something entirely new—to play Santa Claus to thousands of little people to whom he has long been a stranger.

A movement is under way to collect toys from far and near and to distribute them to children who otherwise would not receive any gift at the coming Christmas festival.

The Journal has established receiving stations all over Boston, and on Tuesday, December 14, will take charge of gifts from all who care to contribute. Every one who wants to help is asked to assist by contributing some little thing. A five-cent article will be appreciated in the same measure as a more expensive gift, so it is in the power of all to help out in this good work. The big express companies at many stations will convey the gifts free of charge.

The Journal is publishing every day the details of the plan and will see that every donation reaches some child and will make Christmas a reality rather than a dream.

A VISIT TO "OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS." A Midwinter Excursion to Montreal and Quebec that will be Availed of by Hundreds.

There is one form of "reciprocity" that will always be in effect between the United States and Canada, and that is the social kind. The intermingling of Americans and Canadians during the summer and winter months is one of the most delightful phases of the international life.

Our Canadian cousins we have with us at all times, but the visitation of our own people to the Dominion is more in evidence at the stated vacation periods. Many prefer to make their trips across the border in good going, the snow lies deep on the ground and the Frost King has firmly sealed the ice and they realize the fact that at this season the finest and most healthful forms of Canadian outdoor life are to be enjoyed.

In Caspascally in quaint Quebec and picturesque Montreal—the natives at this season devote practically all their leisure to the enjoyment of snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, sleighing, ice-boating, curling, skating, hockey and the various other vigorous sports of the time that seem to be indigenous to Canada and to foreigners.

These splendid open-air sports frequently form part of elaborate "winter parties" for the benefit of the poor, and feature the felicitous storming of an ice castle or palace, and with an aftermath of enjoyable social functions and fetes.

A splendid opportunity to enjoy these winter pleasures with the added inducement of comfortable railroad facilities and the best of modern hotels, is afforded by the special Excursion from New England points to Montreal and Quebec via the Boston and Maine railroad, December 30 to January 2. Tickets will be good going December 30 and 31 and January 1 and 2 inclusive, and will be good to return until January 5, inclusive. The low rates, coupled with the superb attractions at the Canadian end, make this the outstanding opportunity of the year.

Through the beautiful Merrimac and Connecticut valleys will not be the least enchanting part of the trip.

A law has been put in force in Prussia which makes it a crime punishable by fine or imprisonment to keep children away from school.

New Advertisements.

EGGS FOR SALE. Mrs. Charles C. R. I. Red Cockerels for breeding for sale. Price low. Apply to W. A. MOORE, Groton, Mass. 2114

NOTICE.—Choice B. P. Rocks and S. C. R. I. Red Cockerels for breeding for sale. Price low. Apply to W. A. MOORE, Groton, Mass. 1217

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of ELIZABETH E. LOW, late of Ayer, in said County, deceased.

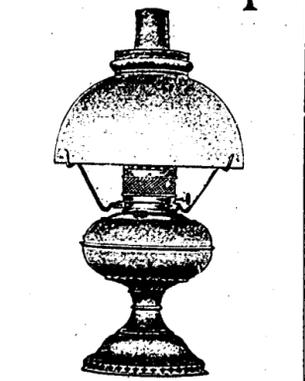
Whereas a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by JAMES M. DOLLOFF, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to him, the executor therein named, without giving a surety on his official bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the third day of January, A. D. 1910, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, and by mailing, post-paid, or delivering a copy of this citation to each of the persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this sixteenth day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine. 3w14 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

Rayo Xmas Lamp



\$1.49 AT AYER VARIETY STORE

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Custom Tailor

Dressmaking A Specialty

Suits Made To Order

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No job too large or too small for me to handle.

A specialty of color and half-tone work.

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My facility for Book and Pamphlet work is unsurpassed, as with a Linotype Machine I am able to get out this kind of work quickly, and new type for every publication.

I am able with a large force of workmen to handle rush orders better than anyone in this vicinity.

BEST OF WORK. REASONABLE PRICES.

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MID-WINTER EXCURSION TO THE FAMOUS CANADIAN CITIES MONTREAL AND QUEBEC

TICKETS GOOD GOING DEC. 30, '09 TO JAN. 2, '10 RETURNING UNTIL JAN. 25, '10, INC.

ROUND TRIP FROM AYER, MASS.

TO MONTREAL \$10.10 TO QUEBEC \$12.05

OUTDOOR WINTER SPORTS Visit the great social and historic centers of Canada at a time when outdoor sports are the popular entertainment feature, and enjoy the most fascinating mid-winter trip east of the Rockies that reveals winter scenic grandeur unequalled on the continent.

RATES, TICKETS and RESERVATIONS may be obtained from Ticket Agents at Above Stations. BOSTON MAINE C. M. BURT, G.P.A.

WANTED.—A Good Safe Driving Horse for the keeping. Light driving best of care and feed, and warm roomy stall. Address P. O. Box 182, Ayer, 1817

FOR SALE.—Two Cutters, 1 Double Runner, 3 Buggies, 1 Lumber Wagon, BARTHOLOMEW McGRILL, Ayer, 1111

Xmas Reminder

You Will Find at Brown's Drug Store

a fine assortment of reliable goods in the following lines:

Stationery IN FANCY BOXES

Confectionery Perfumery

Leather Goods Fountain Pens Brushes ALL KINDS

Smoker's Articles Toilet Sets

Manicure Sets Brass Goods

Music Rolls

The above are only a few suggestions. CALL AND LOOK

BROWN'S The Prescription Drug Store, Ayer, Mass.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of Thomas L. Motley, late of Groton, in said County, deceased.

Whereas a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by Maria D. Park, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to her, the executrix therein named, without giving a surety on her official bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the third day of January, A. D. 1910, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, and by mailing, post-paid, or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least, before said Court.

Witness Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this thirteenth day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine. 3w14 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors and all other persons interested in the estate of HARRIET L. EVANS, late of Ayer, in said County, deceased, intestate.

Whereas a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to HARRIET L. EVANS, of Ayer, in the County of Middlesex, without giving a surety on her bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the fourth day of January, A. D. 1910, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court.

Witness Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifteenth day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine. 3w14 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

Look On the Date of Your Paper

And if you are in arrears send along the Dollar in an envelope, by check, or Post Office or Express Money Order. Please give this your earliest attention.

JOHN H. TURNER, Ayer.

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Call on or Address GEORGE H. B. TURNER, AYER.

Advertising rates reasonable and furnished on application.

Items of local interest are solicited, and must always be accompanied by the name of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith, and will always be considered strictly confidential. Kindly mail items soon after the day of occurrence, and do not wait unnecessarily.

"The daily labors of the Bee. Awakes my soul to industry? Who can observe the careful Ant, And not provide for future want?"

Saturday, December 25, 1909.

GROTON.

News Items.

Mrs. John H. Robbins and her cousin, Mrs. E. A. Davenport, of Boston, are recent arrivals at the Maryland. Mrs. Robbins is a very pleasing addition to the Maryland colony, having spent a number of seasons at the hotel. Mr. Robbins is detained in the east by business matters, but is expected at the Maryland after the holidays. The hotel is located in Pasadena, Cal.

Mrs. Louisa Lewis Tyler died in Woburn on Sunday, December 12, at the advanced age of 91 years, 3 months and 6 days. She was a daughter of Asa and Lucy (Fletcher) Lewis, and was born at Groton on September 6, 1818. At the time of her death she was the oldest woman in Woburn. In early life she was a scholar at Lawrence academy.

It has cost the Massachusetts state treasury \$7923 this year to pay the damages done by deer to growing crops, and some claims are not yet in. The majority of the claims are presented because of damage to cabbage lots and turnip patches. Fruit trees also incur in the total damages. An effort will be made in the next legislature to secure an open season on deer. Groton has been paid \$47 for damages.

Dorothy Richardson is spending the holiday vacation with her mother in West Hoxbury.

There are different reports about the condition of Edwin Kemp, who went to the Massachusetts General hospital last week, having a bad arm with symptoms of lead poisoning, it was thought an amputation would be necessary, but at this time of writing, it is said that his trouble is erysipelas, and that his recovery will be accomplished soon. Another report is that Mr. Kemp is still on the dangerous list.

A limited number of "The Shattuck memorials," by Lemuel Shattuck, a book published some forty or fifty years ago, have been recently discovered in the book store under Park Street church, Boston. This offers an opportunity to members of the Shattuck families or other families related to own this book, the editions of which were exhausted, and before this and not obtainable.

Dr. Steere has just had his residence, Pleasant street, supplied with electric lighting.

W. H. Bruce, Main street, is now electrically lighted and with F. A. Sherwin, Station avenue, enjoys the distinction of being the two Groton stores having that service.

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Stebbins and son, Lowell Stebbins, also Mr. and Mrs. Huntley N. Spaulding, with Miss Nannie Mason, will be holiday guests at Groton Inn.

Bernard Alden Sherwin, born December 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sherwin, was christened at the Sacred Heart church, last Sunday.

Mrs. Stella Mention of Pepperell is an over-Christmas guest this week of Mrs. J. K. Hemenway.

The White family, including their daughter, Mrs. O'Hara, have moved from town, taking all their furniture. Their lease of the Maplewood house, of the late H. C. Corey estate, does not expire until next August.

Mrs. Charles Lawrence is breaking up housekeeping in upper tenement of John Boynton's residence on Main street, and will board at George E. Hodgman's.

The high school dance of Friday, December 17, was well attended and a good success. Somewhere about fifty dollars are reported to be made.

There remains but little work now, such as the cutting of limbs off the trees growing on the state road before the entire work of the electric street lighting is fully completed. A little delay has been caused by the waiting for permission from the state to cut these limbs.

There is universal satisfaction and appreciation expressed by the townspeople in this electric lighting service. They express themselves as highly pleased with the work of the committee in charge. With electric lights, state road, town water, good sidewalks, etc., what wait we for but the trolley?

Teachers home for the holiday vacation are: Misses Lucy B. Kaddin, Lena L. Tuttle, Gladys A. Mason, Phyllis E. Gay, Marion S. Blood and Marguerite T. Cleary.

Mrs. C. H. Bickford and sister will spend Christmas with relatives in Wallman.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harrington of Hyde Park are expected guests at the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Harrington.

Christmas festivities with the usual exercises and gift-laden trees were held Friday, the night before Christmas, at the Baptist, Congregational and Unitarian churches.

Dr. Eames, dentist, has hired Dr. Erlston's house and will come to Groton to practice his profession.

A. H. Mason comes home Saturday from Barrington, N. H., for Christmas dinner, returning to his work the same day.

D. R. Steere has been putting in a cement foundation for a new shed at the Stiles place.

Groton School closed for the holidays on Wednesday, enjoying their annual Christmas festival on that evening and leaving for homes on Thursday. Lawrence academy, closed on Wednesday, December 22, for the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Fannie Forbes and daughters are spending the Christmas recess at Groton with her sister and family, at

ter going to see her younger sister, Mrs. Helen Whitcomb of Allston. Mrs. Whitcomb has been very ill at the Elliot hospital, Boston.

Hospital Notes.

Mrs. William Fernald went home from Groton hospital, Tuesday, feeling well.

A little daughter was born to Mrs. E. R. Washburn, last week Thursday. Mother and child are doing well.

Miss Clara Nichols of Pepperell was operated on for appendicitis last week and is doing well.

Mrs. E. C. Sabin of Ayer was operated on at the hospital for throat trouble and is doing well.

James Connelly, a young patient from Pepperell, was operated on for appendicitis at the hospital, last week Friday, and is as comfortable as can be expected.

Mr. and Mrs. William Pelletier went to Cohituate to spend Christmas.

Born, December 19, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Silas Northrup.

Mrs. I. J. Wetherbee, with little daughter, has moved to Hollis, N. H.

There will be vesper services at the First Parish Unitarian church, Sunday, December 26, at four o'clock p. m. Edward V. James and family of Ayer are Christmas guests at John Moyle's and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Killerman of Ayer, with Mr. and Mrs. George Chase, will be guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chase on Christmas.

Among the private Christmas trees to be enjoyed this week is that of Master Koderick Woolley's, which he has gotten up himself and very successfully too. It is trimmed and ornamented with taste, fitted out with candies and all that goes to make the genuine Christmas tree. When a number of his chosen companions meet at his home this Saturday evening, it goes without saying there will be some fun.

Mrs. Ellen M. Needham will entertain a family house party at Christmas-tide. Among the guests will be Mrs. Brockway, her sister-in-law, who has been here as visitor for the past week or two. Others present will be Mrs. Harris Hartwell and family of Fitchburg.

Among the students home for the holidays are: Misses Helen Eddy, Alice Woods, Edna Bowles, Edith Waters, also William Boynton, John Bradley, Daniel Needham, Frank A. Woods, Harold R. Sheedy, Winthrop Sheedy, David Donahue, Harold H. Woods, John H. Culver, Perlie P. Fallon, James Dumphy.

Skating of the best has been enjoyed on Raddin's pond by numbers of young people. This is a favorite resort, being perfectly safe. Martin's pond is also having the ring of the skaters' steel.

The Groton grange will give the drama, "Bar harbor," in the town hall on Friday evening, January 7, 1910. Music by Robbins' orchestra. Dancing after the play until one o'clock. The following is the cast of characters:

Capt. Hopper, Eber Kolstead; Gideon Graham, Alanson Mason; Cy. Brackett, Walter Winslow; Hardy Stone, Frank Watterson; Rev. John Wesley Wiggins, William A. Woods; Mrs. Wardell, Mrs. Georgia Mason; Florence Wardell; Mabel Kolstead; Kate Wardell, Grace Bradshaw; Spray Hopper, Letitia Ward; Arabella Pansy Howe; Leo Bradley, Elmer Sawyer.

Mrs. Jane E. Clark entertained several friends, Wednesday, at tea, and during the evening a good time was enjoyed. No gentlemen present.

John T. Gay, oldest son of Deacon H. H. Gay, leaves home about January 1. He goes to Economy, Penn., a town near Pittsburg, where he is to work under H. R. Gilson, superintendent of the National Metal Moulding company's works. Several Groton boys are already working there.

Fred G. Carpenter, station agent, is spending his Christmas vacation at Greenville, Me.

The freight depot was broken into about four o'clock, Friday morning, and entrance was gained through a window, a pane of glass being broken and then the window raised. About forty dollars in money was taken. The surrounding towns were notified by telephone to be on the look-out for suspicious characters.

Groton Grange.

The regular meeting, Tuesday evening, was very interesting and well attended. William A. Woods, master, Mrs. Blanche M. Brown, lecturer elect, and Mrs. E. P. Woolley gave reports of the state grange, held in Springfield, last week. Many interesting facts and much valuable information were brought out in these reports. For instance, if persons have sterile, unprofitable land and wish advice as to treatment and crops, it can be obtained from the president of the Amherst agricultural college, who will send out a man, free of cost, to advise in the matter, and if those who wish to get advice about setting out trees, the state forester will send out a man, free, to help by his advice in that line also. Surely the state is willing to do much in encouraging the farmer and forester.

Other features of Tuesday evening's meeting was singing by the grange and the reading of the grange journal, written in rhyme by Mrs. E. A. Barrows. The installation of officers will take place Friday evening, January 11, 1910.

AYER.

To the Editor:

Kindly permit me to join with many other citizens of the town of Ayer in congratulating the members of the Congregational church for the moral courage and good citizen spirit they manifested in a recent meeting in deciding to enter into negotiations with other churches with a view to uniting with them to promote the cause of religion and civic righteousness. Their voluntary action is a most decided expression of broadmindedness and large-heartedness and deserves to be registered in the history of the town.

If the members of the Congregational church realize their wish they will set an exceptionally good example deserving of emulation by other Evangelical churches throughout the district and state.

As the present writer is profoundly interested in effecting a federation of the protestant churches, he desires to submit a few suggestions to help in

overcoming the problems which may arise in the present local effort.

I. It will be necessary to ascertain how many of the members of the Congregational society are desirous of uniting with other religious bodies. To obtain the personal opinion it will probably be prudent to cast a private ballot, and if the majority are in favor of union to regard the decision as final. It is extremely difficult to get entire agreement on any question.

II. The question will probably be raised with what church to unite. This will possibly involve much discussion, and the writer begs to suggest that instead of deciding to join one particular denomination that the members be permitted or encouraged to unite with the church of their choice. Probably some men and women would not be willing to be immersed as a condition of entering the Baptist church. Others could not conscientiously accept the so-called apostles' creed as taught and recited in the services of the Methodist Episcopal and Protestant Episcopal churches.

As I have referred especially to the so-called Evangelical churches, I have purposely refrained from speaking of the Unitarian church. I will add, however, that the Unitarian church is already interdenominational, for it consists of Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, Universalists, Unitarians and at least one Roman Catholic, it is actually a union church.

III. What shall be done with the building? Here is a problem of considerable importance and not easy to solve. There is sometimes a good deal of sentiment associated with buildings, and it will require an act of good-will and self-sacrifice for the good of the community, for those interested to devote it to some other use. Let me suggest there is a humanitarian cause more important than a church in Ayer for which it could be used.

The citizens of Ayer have for some time realized the need of a hospital to which the injured and those who have not satisfactory home accommodation during sickness, especially maternity cases, could be taken. As a railway center Ayer is surrounded by several small towns, none of which are able to maintain a municipal hospital, and if they would unite, they could support one in Ayer available to all. It would be a most humanitarian and God-like enterprise if the physicians of Shirley, Groton, Pepperell, Harvard and Ayer would undertake to solicit the necessary money to purchase the Congregational building and maintain it as a hospital. The people throughout the district, I am sure, would readily and generously respond to an appeal so profoundly religious, and I am confident that the present members of the society would rejoice that the house of prayer were to be converted to such a practical and religious purpose. O ye physicians, women's clubs, churches, fraternities, unite and seize this grand opportunity to do something worthy of humanity to help the weak and the suffering, and thereby glorify God!

And ye men and women whom God has blessed with an abundance of the material things, listen to the voice of God pleading with you to help the weak, and hear the cries of weak humanity ascending to heaven for help, and make this season of the good-will the opportunity to give a magnificent donation toward the establishment of a local hospital!

Finally, I would appeal to the members of the Unitarian society and urge upon them the importance of changing the name of the church so as to encourage and facilitate union with it. Originally the society was called the "Union Christian church," and it was a serious mistake when it adopted its present name. The church is Congregational in polity, it is non-sectarian in its teaching and aims to interpret religious experience and history in the light of modern science; and its fellowship is based upon the disposition to be and do good rather than upon the acceptance of a fixed and authoritative theory of religion. It embodies the necessary principles for a rational religious society; in fact, it is a union church, but people are prejudiced against the name, and the stumbling block should be removed. At the annual meeting of the Unitarian church I sincerely hope that the name Unitarian will be dropped, and that the name "Union Christian" or "Unity church" be adopted.

Although the writer expects to leave town very soon, he will still retain some interest in the people and anticipate much moral, religious and social progress.

If the movement is started to convert the Congregational church building into a hospital, the present writer, although he is quite poor, wishes to show his practical interest by contributing twenty dollars (\$20) towards raising the necessary money.

A well wisher of the town and people.

LITTLETON.

News Items.

Rev. John L. Sewall of Worcester, son of a former Congregational minister of Littleton, gave the evening address at the services held in observance of Forefathers' day at the East Weymouth Congregational church, December 19, taking for his subject "The Pilgrim as a business man." New England as a center of industry, invention, and of world-wide commerce, the integrity of the Pilgrim in business, the value of individualistic impulse in business as contrasted with socialism, and the satisfactory results coming from intensive methods in business procedure, such as thoroughness, thrift, careful expenditure, abhorrence of waste and extravagance and patience with the growth of small but steady increments. These were the facts which he emphasized as especially foreshadowing New England's honored position in the business world.

At a meeting of the Congregational church committee, held Wednesday evening, Rev. Paul G. Favor asked permission to tender his resignation as pastor, in order to accept the offer of a pastorate in Somerville, the same to take effect the last of January.

The annual meeting of Loyal Nashobah lodge, I. O. O. F., M. U., will be held Monday evening, at 7.45 p. m. Election of officers and other important business will be transacted. Every member is requested to be present.

Miss Mary Marshall is visiting her sister, Mrs. Leeds in Arlington.

Mrs. Grace E. Lawrence will entertain as a Christmas guest her nephew, Charles Allen of Lynn.

Mrs. Eliza J. Hartwell has returned to the home of her son, Heyward, in Somerville, for the winter.

Miss Gertrude Merrill of Putnam hall, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., is spending the holidays with the Fred S. Kimball family.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Brodeur of Worcester are at the home of her father, Alonzo V. Moore.

Mrs. John A. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barrow, and Mr. and Mrs. William Pickard attended the state grange meetings, recently held in Springfield, and returned home enthusiastic over the convention.

James E. Smith arrived from the St. Louis International Convention of Way Maintenance employes Wednesday.

Clifford Shedd has given up his position in a Leominster market and has accepted a position with the Moxie Company, to begin duties soon after Christmas.

"Grandma Smith" of Winthrop has been visiting her children and grandchildren in the Charles Smith and Charles Johnson families.

Mrs. Mary J. Kimball returned Saturday from a three weeks' visit with her brother, Melburn Hutchins of Boston.

Mrs. William Newell is still confined to her home and suffering from injuries received in a fall at the Waiom park picnic last summer.

Mrs. Babcock, on the Thomas Coté farm, was severely burned last Sunday morning, while working near the stove. She is at present making as good progress as can be expected.

Rev. H. B. Drew has completed his studies for the season at the Newton Theological seminary.

Joseph O. Coughlin and Frank L. Litchfield have been drawn on the grand jury in Cambridge.

Miss Lora A. Barnes, model teacher in the second grade at the Keene, N. H., normal school, spent the first three days of the week with Mrs. A. W. Knowlton.

The Baptist fair was pronounced a telling success. The booths were most attractive, and the entertainment of the evening, including the reading of an original poem by Mrs. Drew, reading by Mrs. Edwin Robinson, and the Mother Goose entertainment was keenly appreciated. The net receipts from the sale amounted to more than a hundred dollars.

Twenty-three members of the Briggs' family will observe Christmas at the A. B. Webber home. Twenty-five are expected at Everett Kimball's.

Christmas parties for the children, Friday afternoon, at Unitarian and Congregational churches and Friday evening at the Baptist church, gave the usual good results in genuine happiness and fun.

At the Baptist church, Sunday morning, there will be special music. At the same church there will be a five o'clock vesper service when the beautiful cantata, "Hope of the world," will be rendered by a well-instructed chorus. A short sermon by Rev. H. R. Drew will be preached.

The Parthen Lights' meeting will be held with Mrs. Webber next Wednesday evening.

Mrs. A. W. Knowlton and son, Heywood, spent Christmas with Mrs. John Ames in Somerville, and later visit Mr. Knowlton's sister, Mrs. Ball, in Woburn, returning home at the end of the week.

The Nashobah District Sunday school in Westford will have a tree and appropriate exercises Saturday afternoon. Rev. H. B. Drew and his teachers have the entertainment in charge.

George Gardner's family from New Bedford are spending the holidays at J. Hartwell Whitcomb's.

Margaret Thacher is at home and entertains as her guest, Miss Caroline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Marsh of Colorado.

There have been many pleasant skating parties on Long and Mill pond this past week.

J. H. D. Whitcomb bought at public auction, Monday, the farm of Misses Georgia and Emma Whitcomb at Littleton Center. The price paid was \$2975 above the first mortgage and all other encumbrances.

Charles V. Flagg has bought a prize-winning pair of heavy gray horses.

The Conant & Co. store at Littleton Common is now lighted from Fred O. Stiles' acetylene gas plant, and scoring a brilliant success.

C. E. subject for Sunday evening meetings is "Our responsibility for home and foreign missions; leader at the Congregational church, Harold W. Conant. Guild subject, "Pennyson's message." Leader, Miss Grace Needham.

The statement that Mr. Hopkins, who is a constable here, had been assaulted, is utterly wrong. He was not out of the house that evening.

The annual parish meeting, supper and social take place at the Unitarian vestry, Monday evening, December 27, at seven o'clock.

Hon. Frank A. Patch was chosen Wednesday Middlesex county commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Samuel O. Upham of Waltham. Mr. Patch will serve for the short term ending January 5, 1910. Mr. Williams of Weymouth will then succeed him and hold office until after the November election. It is stated that this arrangement is a compromise. Mr. Patch was born in Roxborough in 1844, and from 1863 to 1889 was in the wholesale furniture trade in Boston. He was a business partner of Hon. Levi Gould, chairman of the present county commission. He has served in the house and senate.

Items of Interest.

According to French law, a certain reserve is established which no testator can bequeath away from his offspring. A Frenchman with one child can dispose of half his property according to his pleasure; the other half must inevitably pass to the child. Those with two children can dispose of only one-third of their property, those with three children of one-fourth, and so on, according to the size of the family. Stern parents occasionally seek to evade the law by subterfuge,



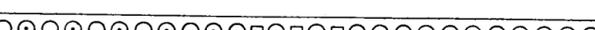
WE WISH YOU ALL A

Merry Christmas

and thank you for your liberal patronage during the Holiday Season, and hope to merit a continuance of the same during the year of

1910

Yours very Truly Geo. B. Turner & Son.



Special ANNOUNCEMENT

Commencing December 27, 1909 For 15 Days

We will give you a great discount on Holiday Goods and some other lines of Goods for CASH. A good time to make presents to some that have been overlooked.

W. A. MOORE & CO. Groton, December 22, 1909.

but the disposal of property in France is hedged round with so many restrictions that family blacksheep are rarely mulcted of their legal inheritance.

The attendance of Jewish children at school is wonderful in its regularity, and their brain has never been in danger of neglect. The Jew—in order to become a good citizen—must be physically as well as mentally efficient.

People are very careful about entering a room where a person is ill with a contagious disease, but M. Remlinger of the Pasteur Institute says that they never pay any attention to the pet animals which go in and out, and are a grave source of danger. A typhoid bug will live for seventeen days in the hair of a dog, and a diphtheria germ for twenty-four. Furry and woolly toys, such as children play with, are also very dangerous things to have in the sickroom.

There may have been many attempts to solve the secret of perpetual motion. The nearest approach to that ideal—though its inventor makes no claim to have discovered it—is a timepiece devised by R. J. Strutt, Lord Rayleigh's son, which consists of two leaves of aluminum, an exhausted glass tube, and a fraction of a grain of radium. The radioactivity of the radium causes the aluminum leaves to move once a minute, and with a wireless coherer a bell rings at each movement. For 10,000 years at least the wonderful energy inherent in the microscopic piece of radium will, it is calculated, continue to act, and nothing whatever needs to be done to the clock once it is set going.

Learned men tell us that in Latin the word "editor" means "something to eat." In the United States its meaning is altogether different. It means to scratch around like blazes to get something to eat.

Value of Church Property.

The total value of church property reported in 1906, for all denominations, was \$1,257,575,867, of which \$935,942,578 was reported for Protestant bodies, \$292,994,787 for the Roman Catholic church, and \$28,994,502 for all the remaining bodies. The following statement shows the principal families and separate denominations arranged in the order of the value of church property as reported by them, together with the average value by organization reporting: Roman Catholic church, \$292,994,787; Methodist bodies, \$229,450,996; Presbyterian bodies, \$150,139,446; Baptist bodies, \$139,842,656; Protestant Episcopal church, \$125,040,498; Lutheran bodies, \$74,826,389; Congregationalists, \$63,240,305; Reformed bodies, \$30,848,274; Disciples of christians, \$23,995,316; Jewish congregations, \$23,198,925; Unitarians, \$14,263,277; Universalists, \$10,576,656; German Evangelical Synod of North America, \$9,376,402; United Brethren bodies, \$9,073,791; Evangelical bodies, \$8,999,979; Church of Christ, Scientist, \$8,806,441; Independent churches, \$8,334,267; Friends, \$3,957,451; Latter Day Saints, \$3,168,548; Dunkers of German Baptist Brethren, \$2,802,532; Christians (Christian connection), \$2,740,322; Adventist bodies, \$2,425,209; Mennonite bodies, \$1,237,134; Eastern Orthodox churches, \$864,791.

Subscription price, \$1.50 per annum, if paid in advance, \$1.00.

Subscribers are urged to keep their subscriptions paid in advance.

"Tis to the Pen and Press we mortals owe,
All we believe and almost all we know."

Saturday, December 25, 1909.

AYER.

News Items.

The Christmas tree of St. Andrew's Sunday school will be greeted Christmas eve at 4.30 by the processional of little girls' vester choir. Parents and friends should be there also. The festival of the "Nativity," or birthday of Christ, will be celebrated in his name on Christmas day at 10 o'clock. The service on Sunday following will be at eleven o'clock only.

Married in the home of John G. Ross, his daughter, Helen Coult Ross and George Deans, both of Ayer, Thursday, December 22, by the vicar of St. Andrew's.

There will be a game of basket ball Christmas afternoon at 3.30 in town hall, between the Fitchburg Y. M. C. A., intermediates, and the local Civic gymnasium team. Clifton H. Merriam, the physical instructor of the gymnasium, will referee the game. A good, clean game of basket ball is assured, and as the admission is only fifteen cents, everyone should go.

A lot of personal property will be sold at auction at the barn of George F. Kingsbury, on Monday, December 27, at one o'clock p. m. A. A. Fillebrown, auctioneer.

The Christmas service will be held in the Unitarian church on Sunday, December 26. The pupils of the Sunday school will take a prominent part in the service and anthems will be rendered by the choir. An appropriate sermon on "Christianity, the religion of the good will," will be preached by Rev. Edwin Evans. This is Mr. Evans' last sermon. The service will be held at three p. m., which all are cordially invited. Sunday school will be dispensed with.

Government witnesses in the case of Raymond Plouffe, charged with the murder of Dr. Henry N. Stone at Harvard September 13, were in consultation with District Attorney George S. Taft in Worcester, Tuesday. The case will be tried before two justices of the superior court in February.

The trustees of the industrial school for boys at Shirley visited that institution, Thursday, coming by way of Ayer, from where they took a special car over the Ayer line of the Fitchburg & Leominster street railway company.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Manning and children, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Conant of Shirley and family will be guests of Mrs. Everett C. Peaver of Lynn, a sister of Mrs. Manning, Christmas.

B. S. Fobes of Troy, N. Y., who is a recent employe at the express office here, starts January 1 to travel as a salesman for the N. K. Fairbanks company selling cottolene in New Hampshire.

The annual meeting of the O. E. S. was held Wednesday evening at the Masonic lodge rooms in the bank block. Officers for the ensuing term were elected as follows: Mrs. F. S. Pierce, w. m.; E. D. Stone, w. p.; Miss Fannie Wood, a. m.; Mrs. R. H. Irwin, cond.; Mrs. E. W. Carley, a. c.; Mrs. A. A. Fillebrown, sec.; Mrs. H. G. Turner, treas.; Mrs. Adelaide Turner, trustee. The reports of the several officers showed that the chapter had passed a prosperous year.

Among the cast of characters in the drama, "Bar Harbor," to be given by the Grotton Grange Dramatic club at Grotton, Friday evening, January 7, are Mrs. Grace Bradshaw, Mrs. George Mason and Walter C. Winslow, and Miss Letitia Ward of Forge Village. An effort will be made to run a barge from Ayer on that night. Anyone desiring to go should communicate with Walter C. Winslow.

There was sold at the postoffice here on Thursday over 2200 one-cent stamps and this week has been a very busy one for the postmaster and his clerks.

James Attridge, who has attended to the lowering and raising of the signal gates at the bridge, had not been covered from his last shock, when he was taken with a severe cold three weeks ago. He is about, but is not at his position which is being temporarily filled by Byron Murphy.

Mr. Green, president of the Lowell and Fitchburg electric railway, left for his home in Gloversville, N. Y., last week Friday, to spend the Christmas holidays. Before going Mr. Green presented all the employe with a pair of gloves.

Melville L. Savage returned to town last Sunday after an absence of four months, from his business trip from Montreal to Victoria, B. C., and return, covering a distance of about 8000 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Savage and daughter, Helen leave for Montreal the first week in January and they expect to return home in about three weeks.

Rev. H. A. Bridgman preached a very able sermon, Sunday, in the Congregational church.

As some of the employes of L. W. Phelps was burning brush in his lumber yard, near the pond, Friday morning, December 24, the sparks set fire to a lot of boards, partially destroying two piles of them about ten feet in height. The fire was extinguished soon after the fire alarm was rung in.

George G. Osgood, who has been ailing for some time past, is very poorly and in a weak condition.

Dennis McGuane died at his home on Lawton street, Thursday afternoon, December 23, at two o'clock. He had been ill about five weeks. He was born in Ireland about sixty years ago, and has been a resident of Ayer about forty years. His wife died twenty-six years ago. He leaves a son, James E. McGuane, and a daughter, Mrs. James Attridge, both in Ayer. The funeral is this Saturday afternoon, at three o'clock, at St. Mary's church, and burial in St. Mary's cemetery. Mr. McGuane had been gatekeeper at the Worcester and Nashua railroad crossing for six years.

Fred W. McCarter, treasurer of the Haynes-Piper Co., was in town on

Monday, accompanied by Messrs. Doolittle, Erwin and Adams of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Mr. McCarter entertained his guests in part by showing them through the company's model plant, where they found much to interest them in the modern and scientific methods employed by this concern in the making of dry and refined ciders.

Miss Helen Etta Richardson of Boston is now with the Haynes-Piper Co. as bookkeeper and stenographer. Miss Richardson has been employed for some time at the Boston office of this concern.

Charles W. Mason was drawn last Saturday to serve on the grand jury. Capt. Palmer has commenced to take down the Harvey A. Woods' house on Washington street, that he recently purchased of Dr. Cowles.

Dennis J. Flaherty started, Friday noon, on his trip to the south, where he will remain during the winter. He will stop in New York city for a few days.

Unclaimed letters at Ayer postoffice, December 20, are as follows: Mary C. Chester, Fred Cole, Joseph E. Lepp, Luckoul & Moore.

In the Congregational church, Sunday morning, the pastor will preach his concluding sermons. Morning service at 10.45, and evening service at seven o'clock.

About Town.

Mrs. Clarence H. Kinney was taken ill last Saturday in Boston, where she had gone with her daughters, Helen and Emma. She was brought home and has been quite ill since, but is now somewhat better.

At the Unitarian and Congregational churches there were suppers and Christmas trees for the children, Friday night. At St. Andrew's the tree will be had this Saturday afternoon.

The young people home from school for the Christmas holidays are Thomas Fisher from St. Paul's school, Concord, N. H.; Ruth Fisher from Albany, N. Y.; Bennett Sanderson from Grotton School; Herbert Hardy from North Bridgton, Me.; Nelson Turner from Phillips-Exeter; Hartwell Bigelow from Maine university; Herbert Allen from Tufts college; Alfred Richardson from Harvard college.

Ruth Huntington was taken to a hospital in Nashua last Saturday for an operation for adenoids and enlarged tonsils. She returned on Monday. The operation was very successful and the little girl is doing nicely, and will probably be able to return to school when it opens next week.

At the Congregational Christmas concert, last Sunday evening, there were recitations by Reginald Bradshaw, Stanley Livingston, Percy Viall, Blanche Morse, Doris and Donald Dickerman, Sumner Viall, Laura McLeod, Helen and Ruth Stone, Dorothea and Earl Daniels, Kimball Martin, Dolores Bradshaw, Ethel Thayer, Mariana Rowe, Elizabeth Larrabee and Lucy Smith, and vocal solos by Ellis Harlow, Roy Smith, Mabel Sargent, Helen Hardy and Edward Hopkins.

Miss H. Roberta Stubbs of the Eighth grade school and Miss Eva E. Eagles of the Seventh grade, have resigned their positions. Miss Stubbs to accept a position in Lexington and Miss Eagles in Everett. Their positions here have not yet been filled.

The schools will open Tuesday, December 28, for the winter term.

The Hill Whist club met on Tuesday, December 21, with Mrs. Benjamin Taft, East Main street.

Rev. Fr. P. J. Sheedy of St. Mary's church observed the thirty-fourth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Wednesday, December 22. There was a reunion of his classmates at his home. There were twenty-three in the class and only five are now living. Among those present was Bishop Bevin of Springfield. This class reunion is held every year. Fr. Sheedy has been the acceptable pastor of this parish for nearly twenty years.

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Congregational society, Monday night, Arthur M. Winslow and Mrs. Clara E. Richardson were elected members of the Prudential committee in place of Dr. Hopkins and Percy Gordon resigned. Mrs. A. M. Winslow was elected a soliciting committee to make up the present year's deficit. The meeting adjourned to Tuesday evening, December 28.

Misses Jennie and Mabel Sargent went to New York city Monday for a week with their brother, Lewis Sargent, who is in an electrical school there.

Herbert Hardy is home from North Bridgton academy, Maine, for the Christmas holidays.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Ripley, Wednesday morning, December 22.

A daughter was born at Grotton to Mrs. E. R. Washburn, Thursday, December 16.

For other Ayer news see the opposite page.

Death.

Mrs. Esther Ellithorpe Parsons, wife of the late Charles C. Parsons, died on Thursday, December 9, after being confined to her bed since May, at the age of seventy-seven years. She was born in Westday, N. Y., and lived during her married life in Ayer, Hudson and Nashua, she being married to Mr. Parsons about fifty-three years ago, who died in 1891. Since his death she has been living with her son, Geo. W. Parsons in Nashua. Mrs. Parsons was the last and the youngest of a family of thirteen children, whose parents were pioneers and the children were born in a log cabin in the Adirondack mountains. Her parents were direct descendants of Ethan Allen. Mrs. Parsons was a kind and loving mother, and never ceased doing good as long as her strength would permit. She is survived by two sons, George W., of Nashua, and Fred J. Parsons of New York city, and two grandchildren, Carl W. Parsons of that city, and Mrs. Harold Rowell of Portland, Me.

Funeral services were held at her late home, Saturday afternoon, December 11, Rev. H. H. Molt of that city officiating. There were many relatives and friends present, and the floral tributes were beautiful. The body was taken to Hudson for burial.

Charles C. Parsons was the village blacksmith here for years, and carried on the business where is now the blacksmith shop of Timothy Cleary.

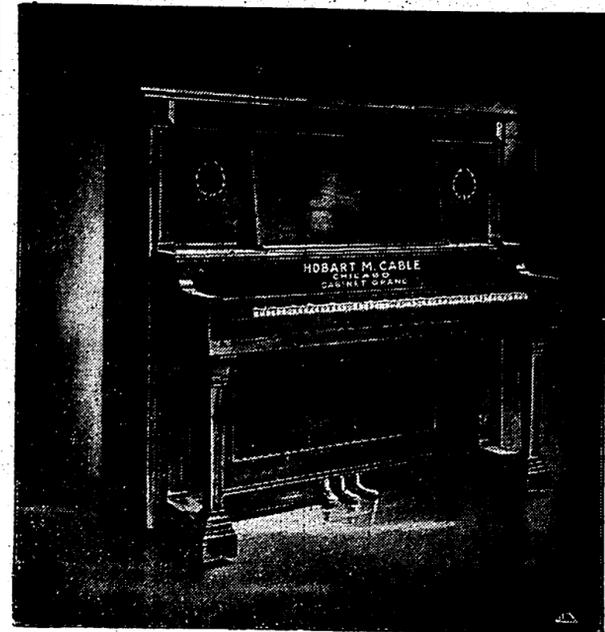
HARD WOOD

Now is the time to buy your Wood.
100 Cords of Good Dry Hard Wood,
4-ft. long.

Price, \$5.00 per Cord
Price, \$2.75 per 1/2 Cord

LEVI W. PHELPS, AYER, MASS.

FOR SALE OR TO LET—A Small Place on Oak Hill, Pepperell, good place for hens. Inquire of BENJAMIN PARKER, Box 56, Pepperell, Telephone 19-12.



WE SHOW HERE

One of the Splendid Values we are offering to the Christmas Shopper, a 6 ft. Extension Table in American Quartered Oak polished top with heavy claw feet, a bargain at \$9.50.

Fancy Rockers, Rugs, Pedestal Centre Tables, Desks, Buffets, Children's Rockers, Taborets, Pictures, Etc., in large and varied assortment, making selections an easy matter.

W. WRIGHT & SON, AYER.

SPECIAL SALE

of
Pianos and Piano Players

UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1910.

Pianos delivered from the factory into your home, brand new. All discounts allowed to the customer. You will get a good instrument at a reasonable price. With every new piano we sell there is a guarantee for ten years, and we also keep the piano in tune for a year, free of charge.

We can save you at least 20 per cent on your piano.

How can we sell so cheaply?

We buy direct from the factory and deliver from the freight depot to your home, saving high rents, and we pay no commissions.

The following are our leaders:

PIANOS

Packard
Hobart M. Cable
Price & Teeple
Gilbert

PIANO PLAYERS

Farrand Ceclian
Ceclian Ceclian
Sohmer Ceclian

We also have some upright pianos, slightly used, which we will sell at a very low price for cash.

Kindly step in and look over our line.

J. J. BARRY & CO.,

250 HIGH STREET, CLINTON, MASS.

Great Christmas Sale

We have in our store over one hundred Ranges and Heaters at prices from \$5.00 to \$75.00 and which must be sold this month. Anyone anticipating the purchase of a Range or Heater can save at least 20% if they purchase at this sale for cash. Stoves delivered and set up in all the surrounding towns free of charge.

Our complete line of House Furnishings we will sell out this month at a sacrifice.

Round Dining Tables were \$18.00 now.....\$13.50
Buffets were \$28.00 now.....\$22.00
China Closets were \$22.00 now.....\$17.00

We are making a special offer of a Dining Set, including Table, 6 Chairs and Sideboard for \$25.00.

Parlor Tables, Chairs, Morris Chairs and Rockers in Oak, Mahogany and Mission finish, we will sell at an equally great discount.

The following are a few of our Bargains in Art Squares:

Axminster Art Square 9x12, Regular Price \$30.00, Sale Price.....\$22.00
Axminster Art Square 8.3x10.6, Regular Price \$25.00, Sale Price.....\$20.00
Tapestry Art Square 9x12, Regular Price \$18.00, Sale Price.....\$13.50
Axminster Rugs 36x72, Regular Price \$5.50, Sale Price.....\$3.50
Axminster Rugs 27", Regular Price \$3.50, Sale Price.....\$2.25

Our whole line of Couch Covers to sell from \$1.50 to \$6.00, prices less than half.

All of our stock of Lace and Muslin Curtains, Portieres, Pictures and our unrivaled line of Lamps, Hanging Lamps, Gas and Electric Light Portables to be sold at greatly reduced prices.

We have a nice line of China which we are selling at a very low price just for the Holidays. We also have a fine stock of Silverware, Jewelry and Watches.

The object of this Sale is to prove to the people of Ayer and surrounding towns that they can buy just as cheaply at home as they can in any of the cities, and to keep the trade in town. Kindly favor us with a call and let us prove to you the truth of what we say.

J. J. Barry & Co., Ayer, Mass

Moving Pictures.

The special feature for Christmas night is, "The mystery of the sleeper trunk." This picture is timely and the advertising given the customs' inspectors in New York recently should help it. It is the story of a "sleeper" trunk, which means one that seems to have no owner, a method used by smugglers to get their goods into this country illegally. Along with the story of the trunk goes the love story of a young customs' inspector who grows out of it including the melodramatic attempts upon his life by the smugglers' agents, and other interesting details which never fail to please an audience. Not the least interesting are the excellent views of New York harbor which appear in the different scenes. Through the country these views should furnish a good idea of how New York harbor looks and those who are familiar with it will enjoy the reproduction quite as much. The firm has made a success with this. There is plenty of dash and go to it, relying upon the melodramatic features of the story to create a feeling of interest on the part of those who see the picture. The photography shows a distinct improvement in photographic quality, which is pleasing to all lovers of good clear work.

For Saturday night those who attend will be assured of a treat in the illustrated songs as Miss Marlon Valentine of Lowell has been secured as the singer. She is a well-known vaudeville artist and comes highly recommended. For the past two seasons she has been a member of the Whalom Park Opera company. Miss Valentine has just returned from a seven weeks' engagement as a ballad singer and the management has been fortunate in securing her services.

Last week considerable complaint was heard concerning the noise made by some of the boys present and if it happens again the management will have to exclude them from the hall.

Grand Celebration.

The Peace and Unity club will hold its forty-sixth Emancipation anniversary in town hall, Ayer, Monday evening, January 3.

The concert will consist of introductory remarks by the president, William H. Chester, North Leominster; Madam Becker, soprano soloist of Fitchburg. The Glee quartet will entertain by singing solos and giving sketches. Chester Harris, manager; Miss Coleman, pianist; Samuel Langford, the pugilist, will be present. After the above exercises there will be a grand ball; music, Dunbar's orchestra of Boston. Floor director, F. P. Lew; aids, A. Hazard, C. C. Harris, D. Rodgers, A. J. Chester, S. Munroe, J. J. Munroe. Doors open at seven o'clock. Concert begins at eight o'clock. Grand march at ten o'clock.

Officers of the club are: William H. Chester, pres.; David Rodgers, vice-pres.; Fred H. Hazard, treas.; Miss Mary C. Chester, sec.; Mrs. Annie M. Harris, asst. sec.; Fred H. Hazard, treas. sick benefit fund.

Committee of arrangements consist of Mrs. F. Hazard, Mrs. W. Chester, Mrs. A. Hazard, Mrs. A. J. Chester, Mrs. G. E. Gooch, Mrs. M. Rodgers, S. H. Piper, Winifred Hazard.

To the Editor:

A statement in this paper in its last issue that the Haynes-Piper Co. were making plans to move their plant to some other town has resulted in a great deal of discussion and comment among the citizens of the town.

Some are of the opinion that the company will not leave town, others wonder why it wishes to leave; many would like to know what could be done to keep them here, and all seem to be unanimous in hoping that something will develop that will keep them here.

Now these sentiments as expressed are highly commendable and if known to the Haynes-Piper people they no doubt would be pleasing to them.

This manufacturing company now under discussion is not the only one that has in the last thirty years declared its intention to leave town, and as the annals of the town show many have carried out their declared intentions and moved to other communities, and which communities have in many cases much profited by the change.

To use a simile, we might say that the community was a great store, its

owners, the townspeople, know that the goods it has to dispose of are excellent, but for some reason one of the customers seems to be dissatisfied with his purchase, and it is up to the salesmen to find out what the trouble is; not to wait until he trades elsewhere.

And to continue the simile, the salesmen are the citizens of the town, to whom the rest of the townspeople have been in the habit of looking to when matters of this kind were to be attended to. They have assumed the burden and its responsibilities are theirs.

Every effort should be made to induce new business to come to the town, and keep what industries are already here, satisfied with their choice. It remains to be seen whether this will be done.

STANLEY L. COTTON.

New Advertisements.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To the next of kin, and all persons interested in the estate of FRED DOBSON of Ayer, in said County of Middlesex, an insane person.

Whereas, JOHN M. MALONEY, guardian of said insane person, has presented his petition for authority to lease for a term of years certain real estate therein specified of his ward's estate, and the same is now on file in said Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the ninth day of January, A. D. 1910, at ten o'clock in the forenoon; to show cause why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is ordered to serve this citation by publishing the same once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be on one day, at least, before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-second day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine.

1115 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

FISHERMEN—First Class Shiners for Sale—one cent each. Express orders will receive prompt attention. ROY E. LAWTON, East Main St., Ayer, Mass., Tel. 19-5.

FOR SALE—Four Scotch Collie Male Pups; sable and white; \$2.00 each, or will exchange for poultry. C. T. WETTERBEE, Walnut Farm, R. F. D. No. 1, Boxboro, Mass. 2w14*

FOR SALE

One Chestnut Horse, six years old; weighs 1550 lbs.; sold for no fault. Have one more than we want. He is a good one. Come and see him.

A. E. Lawrence & Son.

Ayer, Dec. 24, 1909. 1115

NEW LINE OF

Holiday Goods

JUST RECEIVED, CONSISTING OF

Boys' and Girls' Sleds @ 50c. to \$1.50
Flexible Flyers @ \$2.25 to \$3.50
Dressed Dolls @ 25c to \$1.00
Go Carts @ \$1.00
Flying Machines @ \$1.25
Foto-Scopes @ \$1.25 to \$2.50
Boys' Tool Chests @ \$1.00 to \$1.50
Rocking Horses @ \$1.00

WATER SETS WINE SETS TOILET SETS

Complete line of Crepe Paper, Tinsel, Garlands, Colored Tyne, Christmas Cards, Stationery, Books, etc.

American Red Cross Stamps for sale.

P. Donlon & Co.

AYER, MASS.

From Arctic to Tropics in Ten Minutes



No oil heater has a higher efficiency or greater heating power than the

PERFECTION Oil Heater

(Equipped with Smokeless Device)

With it you can go from the cold of the Arctic to the warmth of the Tropics in 10 minutes.

The new

Automatic Smokeless Device

prevents smoking. There is no possible question about it. This means greater heat-power, a more rapid diffusion of heat and a sure conversion of all the heat-energy in the oil. In a cold room, light the heater and in 10 minutes you'll have a glowing heat that carries full content. Turn the wick up as high as it will go—no smoke—no odor. In everything that appeals to the provident and the fastidious, the Perfection Oil Heater, with its new automatic smokeless device, decisively leads. Finished in Nickel or Japan in various styles.

Every Dealer Everywhere. If Not At Yours, Write for Descriptive Circular to the Nearest Agency of the

STANDARD OIL COMPANY
(Incorporated)

An Opportunity for a Few Investors

The 8 Per Cent 10-Year Purchasing-Fund Gold Certificates.

ISSUED BY

The Wheel-Motor Traction Co.

This company has the sales monopoly of an improved form of commercial automobile, now in successful use by the U. S. Government and leading business concerns. The \$25,000 accumulated by the sale of these certificates is to be used for one purpose only—buying machines at the factory to fill orders. The machines are then shipped C. O. D. to the purchasers. Thus there is no credit risk, and the investors' money is neither tied up in equipment nor dissipated by expenses, but is either in cash on hand or convertible thereto at short notice.

Investors in this purchasing fund have the option of withdrawal of principal before maturity. A strong National Bank has agreed to act as Trustee of this fund for and on behalf of investors—to see that it is kept intact and used only as a purchasing fund. This bank will pay dividends as they fall due and will return to any certificate holder, upon sixty days' notice, the amount of his investment or any part of it, should he desire to withdraw same at any time before maturity.

The total issue is only \$25,000, each certificate being for \$25. For the present, with each \$25 certificate is given one share of 8 per cent. preferred stock, par value \$10; and with each \$100 purchase five shares of preferred are given. This unusual opportunity really brings the net return up to about 12 per cent., with the prospect of selling the preferred for nearly enough to pay for the whole investment. We make this offer so that it will not be necessary for this announcement to appear extensively, as previous issues have been largely oversubscribed.

If interested in absolute security of principal, large and definite interest return, and opportunity of speedy withdrawal of principal before maturity if desired, this investment should receive your immediate attention. Communications and orders should be addressed, and checks made payable to,

THE WHEEL-MOTOR TRACTION COMPANY.

N. E. Distributing Plant

Allston District, Boston, Mass.



Something New In Kitchen Ware

The "1892" Pure Spun Aluminum Ware is rapidly coming into use for cooking purposes. It is taking the place of agate and enamel ware because while its first cost is a trifle more than ordinary ware, it is really much cheaper in the long run, as it is guaranteed for twenty-five years and will last practically a life time.

The genuine "1892" Ware, made only from pure SPUN (not cast) Aluminum, will not crack, scale, peel, break, scorch or burn.

It looks like silver but weighs only about one-quarter as much, is easily cleaned and handled, and will not rust, corrode or tarnish. Absolutely pure, non-poisonous and wholesome; saves money, time and doctor's bills.

Be sure you get the original and genuine ware stamped with the Maltese Cross. At your dealers.

A. A. Fillebrown

Ayer, Mass.

Sportsmen, Attention!

L. SHERWIN & CO.

HAVE A GOOD LINE OF

Revolvers, Rifles and Guns, Ammunition, Etc.

In addition to their large stock of other goods.

Main Street, Ayer.

SHIRLEY.

Basket Ball.

Ten of the young men of the town have organized for the purpose of forming two basket ball teams, and through the kindness of the school committee have secured the old red schoolhouse. The high school teacher, Shipley Ricker, has consented to coach the young men and assist them in every way possible. Mr. Ricker will endeavor to be present with them at all practice games and watch carefully the progress and development of each player with a view to selecting five of the best players for team one.

The remaining five will compose team two. Both teams will endeavor to arrange for games with outside teams. The players consist of Chester Phelps, Forrest Hooper, Jr., Burt Gately, Stanley White, Leo O'Neill, William Connors, George Wilson, Frank Damm, Harry O. Bangs and George Le Rose. The following officers have been chosen: Chester Phelps, pres.; Harry O. Bangs, man.; Forrest Hooper, Jr., sec.; Stanley White, treas.

Altruism.

The Altruists will meet at their club room, Thursday afternoon, December 30. A short session will be held for business and will meet again in the evening at Mrs. Ethel S. Bolton's, who will kindly open her home for the reception of the members and invited friends. The directors have charge of the day and will make all arrangements for the program of the evening. A barge will be at the station at seven o'clock to accommodate all who wish to attend.

The Altruist club are to be favored with a first-class entertainment on January 17, at the I. O. F. hall. The committee in charge have engaged the talented Miss Marion Wilson of Boston and New York for the evening. Miss Wilson has great versatility and her impersonations of different characters from the first lady of the land to the convict and bootblack is truly marvellous. Those who listened to her recitations a year ago will surely welcome her with great pleasure a second time. Miss Wilson will be assisted with music by local talent.

Death by Drowning.

Harvey J. Neault, the eleven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Neault, was drowned in Phoenix pond, last week Friday, about 4:30 p. m. Young Neault was a scholar at St. Anthony's parochial school and left the school at the hour of closing, four o'clock, and with his books under his arm, went directly to the pond, where a number of children were playing and skating.

He mingled in with the crowd and enjoyed himself sliding for a time, and without any apparent warning the ice broke suddenly and let him into the water. His cries attracted the attention of others on the ice, and they went to the Phoenix mill, a short distance away, for help. Superintendent Chas. H. Weare, Jr., with the office manager, John E. L. Hazen, and a couple of the workmen lost no time in getting to the scene of the accident, and with a ladder reached the opening in the ice, which was only about fifteen feet at the most from the shore, and in less than three minutes' time spent in groping with a long pole with hook attached, managed to get hold of the unfortunate lad.

The boy had been in the water then from fifteen to twenty-five minutes. However, he showed signs of life, and Drs. Lilly and Pierce worked over him for an hour in an endeavor to revive him, but it all proved useless. Medical Examiner Cowles of Ayer viewed the remains and pronounced it a case of accidental drowning.

The Neault family consist of Mr. and Mrs. Neault and one boy three years of age and a daughter sixteen; also the boy Harvey who was drowned. They came to Shirley about a year ago from Pepperell.

Mr. Neault, the father, is employed as teamster at the Fairbanks' cooper shop here. They reside in the Kate E. Hazen house, directly opposite the President suspender works.

Funeral services were held at St. Anthony's church, last Sunday afternoon. Prayer service being observed, the parish priest, Rev. J. H. Coté officiating. The church was filled with mourners and friends.

The school chums of young Neault, consisting of Ovilla Tetro, Patrick Gionet, Joseph Gionet and Wilfred Quilty, acted as pall bearers.

Relatives and friends attended the funeral from Derry, Nashua and Concord, N. H., and Leominster. Burial was in St. Anthony's cemetery, Shirley.

Whist Entertainment.

The last whist party of the season was held in St. Anthony's hall, last week Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Sodality of St. Ann. The evening's entertainment was under the direction of Mrs. Simon Guerin. Following are the names of the persons who had the charge of taking account of the points: Mrs. Thomas Morin, Mrs. Elizabeth Hachi, Mrs. Frank Boucher, Mrs. Emile Carter and Mrs. Joseph Caserov. Prizes were awarded to Mrs. Frank Gionet; first gift for men was won by Willie Cormier. Other gifts were won by Miss Mary Gionet, Mrs. David Lambert, John Cormier, Alfred Cormier, Richard Murray and Stan Fortier.

For marking points a gift was awarded to Mrs. Thomas Morin. At the close of the game of whist a very pleasant entertainment was given by a committee of the ladies of St. Ann, music being furnished by the Misses Bella Descoeteaux and Augustine Pellicier; by Arthur Durand and Alfred Cormier of Leominster. Miss Rosanna Antile rendered a vocal solo.

The entertainment terminated with a short well-defined address by the parish priest, Rev. Joseph H. Coté, who very cordially thanked all his parishioners for the splendid social and financial results of the societies of his church in the whist contests, which has ended for the present, and gave the following report of the money earned by the following societies: Sodality of St. Ann, \$140.85; children of Mary, \$80.65; the holy name, \$72.33; total, \$293.83. Father Coté then called forward the following who were awarded prizes for selling the largest number of admission tickets to the whist parties: First prize, ten dol-

lars in gold, was awarded to Michael Gionet; second prize, five dollars in gold, was given to Mrs. Charles Gionet; third prize, \$2.50, was awarded to Miss Ernestine Castonquay.

News Items.

Michael Cotter is spending the Christmas holidays with his parents in Middletown, Conn.; Misses Annie and Nina Holbrook with their aunt in Framingham; Mr. and Mrs. Burdin of Everett and daughter with the Love family; James E. Richardson with his brother in Putnam, Conn.

The regular meeting of the Alliance will be held at the home of Mrs. L. J. Farnsworth on Friday afternoon, December 31. Topic of interest for the afternoon, "Governor Shirley."

Miss Gertrude McNally has gone to Greenville, N. Y., where she will spend the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McNally.

The two leading industries of the town, the C. A. Edgarton Co. and the Samson Cordage Works, will give all heads of families in their employ a turkey for their Christmas dinner.

The C. A. Edgarton Co. have arranged for a new schedule of working time for their employes to meet the requirements of the fifty-six hour law, which will be a reduction of two hours per week, commencing January 1, 1910. Work will commence at 6.50 a. m., instead of 6.30. This is the only change that will be made.

A very enjoyable surprise party took place, Tuesday evening, on Fredonian street, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carter, the occasion being the nineteenth birthday of their daughter, Miss Alice Carter. The evening's entertainment consisted of songs, music and games. Miss Carter was presented with a very pretty decorated water set. Miss Mary Gionet read the presentation address. Refreshments were served during the evening. About a score of guests were present.

A Graceful Speaker.

Rev. Dr. J. N. Jones of South Hadley addressed an audience, last Sunday morning, in the Congregational church, on the progress of mission work in Porto Rico. Dr. Jones spent three years in Porto Rico as the principal of the Blanche Kellogg Institute, which is an educational institution in the interest of missionary work. He gave a splendid account of the natives of the country and the customs, habits and modes of living of the people at the island, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the moral and educational features of the poorer class of natives, also improving their conditions of living.

Dr. Jones is a very easy, graceful speaker, with a good command of language and holds the attention of his audience throughout his address.

Church Services.

Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker will preach as usual at the Universalist church, Sunday, December 26, at eleven o'clock. Regular meeting of the Y. P. C. C. in vestry at seven p. m. Subsequent to the above, thanksgiving services for the blessings of the year. Leader, George O. Evans.

There will be preaching at the First Parish church, Sunday, December 26, by Rev. George W. Cooke, commencing at 11:15 a. m.

LITTLETON.

About Town.

Thomas M. Moore has just completed quite a large icehouse located on his place. G. A. Culver of Groton did the building and finished it Tuesday, December 21. It will hold in the vicinity of seventy tons of ice.

Miss Grace Needham will lead the guild in the Unitarian vestry, Sunday evening, December 26. Subject, "Tennyson's marriage."

In the town hall next Wednesday evening, under the Back-log auspices, there will be a concert and ball. Music, Brigham's orchestra, Marlborough.

In the town hall, last week Friday afternoon, very pleasing exercises were given by the younger pupils of the schools, consisting of singing and recitations. The platform was prettily decorated for the occasion. Besides the two Christmas trees there was a fairly good number present of parents and friends.

Miss Lora A. Barnes, till lately a teacher at the west end, was an over-Sunday guest with Mrs. A. H. Knowlton.

H. D. Whitcomb bought the Whitcomb sisters' place in the center, at the auction Monday.

Some Books Added to the Library.

Life of Rev. John Watson. Ian MacLaren. 99 W 83.
Literary landmarks of Rome. Hutton Nicholl. 91.5 H 97.
Tower of throne. Romance of girlhood of Elizabeth. Tomstok. C 731.
Adrift on an ice pan. Grenfell. 91 G 85.
Certain rich man. Wright. W 589c.
Jock of the Bushveld. Fitzpatrick. 91.8 F 58.
Pickett and his men. Pickett. 97.7585.
Peer and his dramatic poem. Ibsen. 839.8 Ib 2.
Rosmersholm. Ibsen. 839.8 Ib 7.
Poppea of the postoffice. Wright. W936p.
Story of old Fort Loudon. Murfee. M944.
Letters of Samuel Gridley Howe. Richards. 920 H 537.
Helen Grant. teacher. Douglas. D 744ht.
Bridge builders. Ray. R 212bb.
Clain Jumper. White. W 587c.
Ralph Osborne, midshipman at Annapolis. Beach. B 357.
Ann of Avonia. Montgomery. M 688ab.
Old rose and silver. Reed. R 275o.
Calling of Dan Matthews. Wright. W 93c.
He 229 who thinks he can. Marden. 818 M 35L.
Picturesque Hudson. Johnson. 917.47 J 52.
In the line. Dudley. D 8651.
Girl of the lumberlost. Stratton-Porter. St 826c.
Through Welsh doorways. Marks. M 338t.
Autobiography of N. S. Shaler. 920 sh 15.
The teacher. Essays and addresses on education. Palmer. 370 P 18.
Art in theory. Raymond. 701 R 216.
Bride of the mistletoe. Allen. Al 56b.
Grizely bear. Wright. W 581.
Goose girl. MacGrath. M 17c.
Salthaven. Jacobs. J 156a.
Set in silver. Williamson. W 677a.
Unlucky family. Le in Pasture. D 375 un.
Keziah Coffin. Lincoln. L 638k.
Walt Whitman. Carpenter. 920 W 596.
Children's Books.
Little Miss Evangeline. Raymond. R 212b.
Land of long ago. Hall. H 1411.
New wizard of Oz. Baum. B 317n.
How we are fed. Chamberlain. 643 C 353.
Is there a Santa Claus? Alcott. R 4461.
Spinning wheel stories. Alcott. Al 156p.
Polly and her. Blaisdell. B 58o.
Tommy Trot's visit to Santa Claus. Page. P 1346to.
Adventures of a Brownie. Craik. C 207.
Dorothy Brown. Rhoades. R 34d.

In the Old Germanic Wilderness.

Leaving Mummelsee on a misty morning, you enter a green underworld of strange dew bediamond brilliance, skirt the head of a deep southward looking valley and emerge upon a sunny open plateau beyond Eckle and look down upon Wildsee, circled by the dark pines of an untouched forest that stretches away to the blue and distant hills. It is easy here to imagine yourself back in the heart of the old Germanic wilderness, in the heroic days when Hagen slew Siegfried with a coward's blow. The morning sun glints upon bright spear tops among the trees and the wind brings snatches of rough war songs shouted by barbarian voices. Your heart swells with the lust of battle and the chase, and if you have German blood in your veins it calls back through the dark middle ages to that dim and mystic youthday of the world when heroes met at the Ravena Schlaucht. Within the hour you find yourself back in the twentieth century among motorcars drawn up beside the hostelry at Rubesteln, where the Hohenweg drops into the common-place and crosses the government macadam before climbing the steep side of the Rothe Schilfkopf.—From "A Black Forest Pathway," by Frederick Van Beuren, Jr., in Scribner's.

Verdi and Bismarck on Titles.

The composer Verdi was offered a title of nobility by King Victor Emmanuel. It was intended that he should be created Marquis or Comte de Busseto, after the estate upon which he lived. The composer refused the offer energetically. He considered that Verdi was somebody and that the Marquis de Busseto would be nobody.

Even Bismarck was unable to parry a blow of this character. When the young emperor broke with him he conferred upon him the title of Duke of Lauenbourg. Bismarck received the parchment with this exclamation: "A pretty name! It will be handy for traveling incognito."

Some days after a parcel arrived at Vauxin bearing the address "Mme. la Duchesse de Lauenbourg."

Bismarck, to whom it was delivered, being then at table, arose and, offering the letter to his wife, remarked ironically: "Duchess, enchanted to make your acquaintance!"

Faithful to His Trust.

I was waiting near the elevator in the factory building for my friend to come down when I noticed a small boy sitting in one corner of the hall holding a large, thick sandwich. He eyed the sandwich lovingly for a long time, then he carefully lifted off the top slice of bread, took out a piece of dill pickle, ate it and replaced all as before. In a few seconds he again removed the top piece, extracted a piece of pickle and a piece of meat and replaced the top. Again and again the performance was repeated until all the pickle and almost all the meat were gone, the sandwich, however, appearing intact as in the beginning.

"Why don't you eat up your sandwich and not pick at it in that way?" I asked the boy with some curiosity.

"Why," he answered, looking up with great innocence, "it ain't my sandwich."—Woman's Home Companion.

Where Women Swim Best.

"The Korean women are the best swimmers in the world," said a life guard. "The Korean pearl diving is in their hands. They swim—they don't boat—they swim out to the pearl fisheries of Quelpart, lugging baskets with them. After this swim of half an hour they dive down fifty feet and fetch up queer one shelled pearl oysters as big as babies. They dive till their baskets are full—the baskets are corked to keep them afloat—and after three or four hours' work they swim back home with their catch. The big one shelled oysters are valuable as pearl mines and as food too. A half dozen Koreans will sit down to an oyster as gaily as you or I sit down to a broiled lobster. Sometimes when the great shellfish is eaten raw it quivers and moans slightly as the knife is plunged into it."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Man and the Lion.

"When I was once in danger from a lion," said an old African explorer, "I tried sitting down and staring at him, as I had no weapons."

"How did it work?" asked his companion.

"Perfectly. The lion didn't even offer to touch me."

"Strange! How do you account for it?"

"Well, sometimes I've thought it was because I sat down on a branch of a very tall tree."

Very Queer.

"My husband has been out late every evening this week attending important club meetings."

"Yes, so has mine. They belong to the same club, you know."

"Why, how queer! My husband says he hasn't seen your husband in six months!"—Cleveland Leader.

The Way She Dressed Him.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" was asked of a small boy by the visitor.

"Oh," said he, "I want to be a man, but I think mamma wants me to be a lady."—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Experienced Father.

Wife—My dear, the nursery needs redecorating. What would you suggest for the walls? Husband—Corrugated iron.—Woman's Home Companion.

A Food Expert.

"What is a food expert?"

"Any man who can make his wages buy enough for the family table."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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Rockland, Mass.
Music For All Occasions
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RESIDENCE, HARVARD, MASS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To all persons interested in the estate of Nathaniel C. Day, late of Ayer, in said County, deceased:

Whereas, John W. Parker, the executor of the will of said deceased, has presented for allowance, the account of his administration upon the estate of said deceased:

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County, on the Twenty-eighth day of December, A. D. 1909, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed.

And said executor is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to all persons interested in the estate fourteen days at least before said Court, or by publishing the same once each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court, and by mailing, post-paid, a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this Fourth day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine. 5w13 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

NOTICE.
The annual meeting of the shareholders of the First National Bank of Ayer will be held at the Banking Rooms in Ayer, Mass., on Monday, Jan. 10, 1910, at one o'clock p. m., for the purpose of acting upon the following business:

To choose a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

HOBART E. MEAD, Cashier.
Ayer, Mass., Dec. 19, 1909. 4t13



Send Us
The Hams
The Shoulders

AND
The Bacon

For Curing

HARLOW & PARSONS
Ayer, Mass.

Telephone 21-2

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors and all other persons interested in the estate of CALVIN D. BLANCHARD, late of Harvard, in said County, deceased, intestate:

Whereas, a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to SAMUEL P. BLANCHARD, of Harvard, in said County of Worcester, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Worcester, in said County of Worcester, on the fourth day of January, A. D. 1910, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Harvard Herald, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court.

Witness, William T. Forbes, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this fifteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine. 5w14 JOHN W. MAWBEY, Register.

NORTH MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK

The annual meeting of the Corporation of this Bank will be held at its Banking House on Monday, the third day of January, 1910, at two o'clock p. m., for the election of officers and the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

S. T. TUTEN, Treasurer.
Ayer, Dec. 14, 1909. 3t14

FOR SALE—Four nicely marked Col. Pub. two months old. GEO. F. STONE, Littleton, Mass. 2w15

NERVOUS DYSPEPSIA.

If You Have It, Read This Letter.
Wm. Brown Guarantees Mi-o-na.

I was taken last August with a severe stomach trouble. The doctor said it was nervous dyspepsia. He gave me medicine for that. I took his treatment four weeks, didn't feel any better at the end of four weeks than I did when I commenced taking his medicine. I took everything I heard of. The first day of December, 1908, I got a box of Mi-o-na tablets. I took them that afternoon and the next day, and haven't had one bit of pain in my stomach since the 2nd of December. I took five boxes. Feel well now, sleep good—that is something I haven't done in a number of years.—Mrs. M. E. Maxwell, R. F. D. 9, Avoca, N. Y., June 9, 1909.

Mi-o-na in the form of a tablet is the best prescription for indigestion ever written.

It relieves after-dinner distress, belching of gas, foul breath, heartburn, etc., in five minutes.

It is guaranteed by Wm. Brown to permanently cure indigestion, acute or chronic, or any disease of the stomach, or money back.

Mi-o-na is sold by leading druggists everywhere and in Ayer by William Brown at 50 cents a large box. Test sample free from Booth's Mi-o-na, Buffalo, N. Y.

HYOMEI

Cures catarrh or money back. Just breathe it in. Complete outfit, including inhaler \$1. Extra bottles 50c. Druggists.

Just One Trial



WILL DEMONSTRATE TO YOU

The Superior Quality of Napoleon Flour.

AND WHY IT IS RECOGNIZED AS THE BEST ON THE MARKET TO-DAY BY THE MOST EXACTING HOUSEWIFE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU TRY ONE BAG AND COMPARE IT WITH WHAT YOU ARE USING.

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Training of Supervisors and Grade Teachers in Public Schools. The course includes the work of the Tonic Sol-fa College, London, Eng., the American Institute and observation work in the principal cities of America.

CUSTOMERS WAITING

From Joseph Break & Sons, Real Estate Agency, and from my own efforts new inquirers and farm buyers are still coming almost daily in spite of winter being near.

So long as snow keeps off there is a good chance that I can sell your place. If it is attractive and the price right, 324 different inquirers since March 1, some of whom are still waiting for me to find the right place and price for them. What have you to offer? Offers on five places now under consideration. Who wants an apple farm bargain for \$3500 with good buildings that has supported a family and cleared \$2800 in the last 4 years? Speak quickly!
Do you want a fine dairy farm, 1 mile to depot, tax rate \$9. R. F. D. trout brook, pond, wood, running water, slate roofs, free from stone level, complete with hay, tools, wagons, sleds, 16 head stock, 2 fine horses, etc., etc. for \$4000, one-half cash.

EDWARD H. BLISS, "The Hillside."
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TO RENT—Upper or Lower Tenement on Fourth Street, Ayer. Apply to Mrs. E. L. WOOD, or Public Spirit Office, Ayer, Mass.

FOR SALE—Fifty Bushels Carrots in lots to suit; 40 cents per bushel delivered. M. W. CAREY, Box 6, Shirley Center.

Hunting For Justice.

Justice is of course loudly demanded by every litigant in a court of law, but it is a frequent infirmity of the human mind to confuse justice with one's own cause. The late Thomas E. Reed, according to a writer in Law Notes, used to tell an amusing story to illustrate this tendency.

He was once retained by an enterprising client to prosecute an action. On talking with the plaintiff's witnesses Mr. Reed found that their stories were far from consistent, so he reported the fact to his client and advised that the suit be dropped. The client was somewhat perturbed, but told the attorney he would have a talk with the witnesses and let him know the next morning what he had decided to do. True to his word, he dropped in bright and early, wearing the cheerful look of one who has fought the good fight.

"I've seen those witnesses," he explained, "and they say they must have been mistaken when they talked with you. They all see it alike now. I've also seen some of the jurymen, and they think I'll win. Now, if there's such a thing as justice in law we can't lose."

Home Helps.

When one has an old barn roof to remove do not try the ancient, laborious way of pulling out the nails. Take a magnet and hold it over the head of the nail till the nail comes out.

To keep the hands perfectly clean and white while the stove is being polished let some one else polish it. There are other alleged methods, but this will prove surest.

The best way to mark an umbrella is to embroider the name of the owner on the little strap for fastening it when it is rolled. Then the person who swipes it can destroy the mark without mutilating any vital part of the umbrella.

To disguise the taste of castor oil put in three drops of bitter almonds, a bit of asafoetida, a touch of rochelle salts and two drops of sulphuretted hydrogen.

To keep red or pink or maroon or cerise ants out of a refrigerator build a trough entirely around it and fill the trough with sorghum molasses or maple sirup or some other form of muck-lage.—Chicago News.

A Long Time Dying.

Mr. Fred Terry told this anecdote of the death scene in "The Heel of Achilles."

"One day," he says, "we were rehearsing this play, and a member of my company came in from the street and asked the call boy how far the rehearsal had got.

"Mr. Terry's just dying," replied the boy.

"Good. I've time to smoke a cigarette before my entrance."

"Presently the actor returned and repeated the question.

"Still dying," answered the boy.

"Oh. I'll go and have another cigarette, then."

"Back he came and only got the same reply from the call boy.

"Finally, after smoking five cigarettes, he asked, a little wearily, how far the rehearsal had gone.

"Still dying," answered the call boy.

"Great Scott!" gasped the actor. "He must be immortal!"—London Answers.

The First Language.

No one of the existing languages has any legitimate claim to be considered the original of the family of languages, standing to the others as Latin, for instance, stands to Italian and French. Of an original primitive language of mankind the most patient research has found no trace. All of them—Assyrian, Phoenician, Hebrew, Arabic—are sister languages, pointing back to an earlier parent language, which has long disappeared. Since the historical period man has done little in the way of the absolute creation of language. The work had already been accomplished ages before the birth of written inscriptions.—New York American.

All His Own.

A young man and his sweetheart were walking together through lanes and fields.

"The young man was rather of a bashful nature and had been paying attention to this same young woman for a considerable time without having plucked up courage to put the all important question.

On this particular night, however, he mustered sufficient pluck to ask her how she thought he was progressing with his courting. At the same time his arm stole round her waist.

"Well, Jack," said the girl quietly, "I think you are holding your own at present."

Her Playing.

Mrs. McDuff—This paper says that mice are attracted by music, but I don't believe it.

McDuff—Why not?
Mrs. McDuff—Because I never see any mice around when I play the piano.
McDuff—Well, that's no reason for doubting the paper's statement.

Beat Her Out.

Waggs—I had the laugh on my wife yesterday.
Boggs—How did it happen?
Waggs—We were out driving, and she discovered an echo that beat her out of the last word.

The Money Question.

"Wot do they mean, Jimmy, when they say money talks?"
"I dunno unless it's the wonderful way it says goodby to yer."—London Tatler.

To accuse the wicked and defend the wretched is an honor.—Cicero.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Land Court

To the inhabitants of the town of Boxboro, a municipal corporation located in the County of Middlesex, and said Commonwealth; Delette H. Hall, Edgar H. Hall, Ellen A. Wetherbee, Fannie E. Wetherbee, Susan A. Hall, Arthur F. Blanchard, Lewis W. Richardson, Herbert Hale, George W. Burroughs, Charles H. Burroughs, and Charlotte H. McClenahan of said Boxboro; Julia A. Wood, Emmie A. Wood and Grace W. Wood of Stowe, in said County of Middlesex, and to all whom it may concern:

Whereas, a petition has been presented to said Court by Clara S. Woodward of Acton, in said County of Middlesex, to register and confirm her title in the following described land:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in the Southeasterly part of said Boxboro, bounded Northerly by land of Delette H. Hall and Edgar H. Hall, Ellen A. Wetherbee, Fannie E. Wetherbee and Susan A. Hall, George W. Burroughs and Arthur F. Blanchard, on the east by land of Charles H. Burroughs, on the South by land of said Charles H. Burroughs and land of Herbert Hale, and on the west by land of said Hale.

The above described land is shown on a plan filed with said petition, and all boundary lines are claimed to be located on the ground as shown on said plan.

You are hereby cited to appear at the Land Court, to be held at Boston, in the County of Suffolk, on the third day of January, A. D. 1910, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

And unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid your default will be recorded, and the said petition will be taken as confessed, and you will be forever barred from contesting said petition or any decree entered thereon.

Witness, Charles Thornton Davis, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this seventh day of December, in the year nineteen hundred and nine.

Attest with seal of said Court. (Seal)
CLARENCE C. SMITH,
Recorder.

BOSTON AND NORTHERN ST. RY. CO. LOWELL DIVISION.

TIME TABLE.
Issued June 21, 1909.
(Subject to change without notice.)

WEEK DAY TIME.
Leave Merrimack Square, Lowell, for Boston via Newbury and Reading to Sullivan Square Terminal, Charles Street—6:45 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 9:45 p. m. Sundays—Same as week day. Return—Leave Sullivan Square—6:45 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 8:45 p. m. Sundays—7:45 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:45 p. m.

Boston via North Billerica, Billerica Centre, Burlington, Woburn, Winchester and Medford to Sullivan Square Terminal, Charles Street—5:25 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 9:55 p. m. (10:25 p. m. to Woburn only.) Sundays—7:10 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 9:55 p. m. Return—Leave Sullivan Square—6:32 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 9:32 p. m. Sundays—7:10 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 9:32 p. m.

Lawrence—5:15, 6:15, 6:40 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:40 p. m. Sundays—7:10 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 9:32 p. m. Return—Leave Lawrence—5:20, 6:10, 6:50 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 11:00 p. m. Sundays—7:20 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 11:00 p. m.

Nashua—6:15 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:15 p. m. Sundays—7:15 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:15 p. m. Return—Leave Nashua—6:35 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:35 p. m. Sundays—7:35 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:35 p. m.

Tyngsboro via Middlesex Street—5:15, 6:00, 6:55, 7:15 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:48 p. m. Return—Leave Tyngsboro—5:40, 6:20, 6:57, 7:33 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:33 p. m. then 11:33 p. m. Sundays—9:32 a. m. and every 30 mins. until 10:33 p. m.

LOWELL and FITCHBURG STREET RAILWAY CO.
Change of Time Beginning Monday, Oct. 19, 1908.

First car leaves Ayer for North Chelmsford and Lowell at 6:05 a. m. and every 15 minutes past every hour up to and including 10:05 p. m., connecting with cars from Fitchburg and Leominster.

First car leaves Lowell for North Chelmsford and Ayer for Fitchburg, Westford, Fitchburg and Leominster at 6:18 a. m. The next car leaves Lowell at 6:33 a. m., then thirty-three minutes past every hour up to and including 10:33 p. m. The 10:33 p. m. and 10:48 p. m. cars from Lowell for Ayer leave North Chelmsford at 11:18 p. m., due at Ayer at 11:58 p. m.

Sundays.
First car from Ayer 7:05 a. m.; last car from Ayer 10:05 p. m.; first car from Lowell 7:33 a. m.; last car from Lowell 10:33 p. m. for Ayer. Westford, Fitchburg and Leominster last car from Lowell 10:32 p. m. for Ayer only. due at North Chelmsford 11:05 p. m., due at Ayer at 11:50 p. m.
L. H. CUSHING, Supt.

The Ayer Electric Light Co.
ARC AND INCANDESCENT LIGHTING
All applications for service will receive prompt attention
RATES REASONABLE. SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS TO LARGE CONSUMERS
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NO DISCOUNT ALLOWED AFTER THE TENTH

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Nashua, N. H.

What a Dollar Dog Can Do.

A man in a nearby city bought for his wife and child a year ago a dog, for which he paid a dollar. It was obviously nothing wonderful in the canine way—merely a mongrel, with the bulldog strain predominant. The owner was a man in humble circumstances, and the dog in his modest dwelling was the principal asset aside from a few sticks of furniture. The other night Tom was tied to a leg of the kitchen sink, as usual, and the family went to bed. They were awakened by the dog at midnight scratching at his master's door. When his master came out to see what was the matter the dog, with a remnant of chewed rope hanging from his collar, whined and ran to the head of the stairway. The house was on fire, and shortly after woman and child and man and dog made their escape their poor dwelling was a mass of glowing embers. The owner of the dog has been urged to part with him for a large cash consideration; but, though he is penniless, he will not part with the four footed savior of his family. Neither has the dog at any time had thoughts of leaving them for luxurious kennels.—New York Times.

Slaves to the Servants.
"I am very tired," said the fashionably dressed woman. "I have been working dreadfully hard all day. Doing what? Why, seeing to my servants—working for them. Didn't you know that the more servants you have the harder you must work? Certainly I have to do all the shopping for my servants. I have to buy their uniforms, the caps and aprons of the maids, the clothing of the housekeeper, and have to see to the marketing, too, and very often, in spite of the fact that I have a housekeeper, I must, or they will form a combine to rob me of everything I have. The housekeeper will get a rakeoff that will enable her to retire in a few years. Then perhaps it is I who must hunt a place as housekeeper for some one else. Oh, yes, if you want to keep your position as mistress of a household of servants you must keep bustling. You can't afford to let the grass grow under your feet to any great extent."—New York Press.

He Got a Hundred.
Sammy's mother talked to him long and earnestly about the poor marks he had been getting in his work at school. She painted in alluring colors the career of the little boy who studies his lessons and gains the love and respect of his teachers. She went even farther. She promised him that if he got good marks she would give him a whole dime all for his own. Sammy seemed impressed.

That afternoon he returned from school fairly dancing with joy.

"Oh, mother," he shouted, "I got a hundred!"

"Sammy," cried his delighted mother. She hugged him and kissed him and petted him and gave him the dime.

"And what did you get a hundred for?" she finally asked.

"In two things," replied Sammy without hesitation. "I got forty in readin' and sixty in spellin'!"—Everybody's Magazine.

Trapping the Parson.
William Morris did not always get his jokes right end first. In a biography of her husband, Mrs. Edward Burne-Jones tells of the ease with which he reversed them.

A dinner gathering had all been asking conundrums.

"Who killed his brother Cain?" asked Burne-Jones.

Morris fell into the trap at once. "Abel!" he shouted.

Later in the day he came in laughing.

"I trapped the parson, by Jove!" he exclaimed. "I asked him, 'Who killed his brother Abel?'"

"Cain," he said at once.

"Ha!" I said. "I knew you'd say that. Every one does." I came away and left him puzzled enough, and I doubt if he's found out yet what the joke was."

Not Qualified.
Two men were getting warm over a simple difference of opinion.

"They turned to the third man.

"Isn't a homemade strawberry shortcake better than a cherry pie?" demanded one of them.

"Isn't a homemade cherry pie better than any shortcake?" inquired the other.

The third man shook his head.

"I don't know," he said. "I board."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Tripping Tongue.
"Henry Peck, you're a fool!"
"You didn't seem to think so when I was single."

"No, you never showed what a big fool you were until you married me."—Exchange.

Not an Umpire.
A clergyman startled his drowsy congregation the other day as follows: "My dearly beloved friends, permit me to remind you that I come here to preach, not to act as umpire in a snoring match."

The Explanation.
Fred—There seems to be a lot more fuss made of Miss A.'s singing than Miss K.'s, and I am sure Miss K. has by far the richer voice. Jack—Ah, yes, but Miss A. has by far the richer father.

Made Sure of the Pie.
A young girl who carried her dinner was observed to eat her pie first. When asked why, she replied, "Well, if there's anything left it won't be the pie, will it, now?"

MRS. LILLIAN E. LAWTON

CHIROPODIST

Tired, burning, aching feet, Bunions, Ingrowing Nails, and Corns, are often caused by a broken arch or flat foot. If you are afflicted with any of these troubles, call and have your feet examined. Consultation Free.

Manicuring, Shampooing, Hairdressing, Facial and Scalp Treatments, Puffs and Switches made from combings.

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Your Dress Proclaims Your Taste

Having had several years experience in some of the leading firms of New York and Boston, I am in a position to offer you what every well-dressed gentleman desires, namely, stylish cut and well-made clothes to order, at prices as low as it is possible to make them, consistent with high-class tailoring.

I have 500 styles from which to select in Foreign and Domestic fabrics of fancy and plain worsteds, mixtures, tweeds, chevots, thibets, drepes, and evening dress goods. Also a fine line of white and fancy vestings, striped trouserings and covert coatings.

Give me a call and see for yourself. All my goods and work are guaranteed.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's garments cleaned, dyed, altered, repaired and pressed in good shape at short notice, at reasonable prices.

J. MURRAY
Merchant Tailor
TURNER'S BLOCK
Ayer, Mass.
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AYER
PORK, ROAST, 14c. lb.
GOOD SIRLOIN STEAK, 18c. lb.
ROUND STEAK, 15c. lb.
GOOD ROAST BEEF, 10c. and 12c. lb.
FOREQUARTERS OF LAMB, 12c. lb.
SUGAR-CURED HAMS, 16c. lb.
SIRLOIN ROASTS, 16c. lb.
BONELESS CODFISH, 3 lbs. for 25c.
7 BOXES SARDINES, 25c.
NICE COOKING BUTTER, 20c. lb.
POTATOES, 70c. in five bushel lots.
BEST SEEDED RAISINS, 10c. a package, 3 for 25c.
OYSTER CRACKERS, 4 lbs. 25c.
GINGER SNAPS, 4 lbs. 25c

A full line of California Fruits at the lowest prices in Ayer.

Remember the Place
UNION CASH MARKET, Main Street
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TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
TAKE
BRUCE'S
CELERY QUININE

Breaks Up a Cold at Once

It is very easy to prevent and cure a cold. There is really no excuse for any one having a cold more than one day. The first time you shiver or have an indication of a cold coming on take 2 tablets of Bruce's Laxative Celery Quinine. If taken at once you will be surprised to find the cold has failed to materialize.

35 Tablets, 25 Cents
Sold by druggists and country stores. Manufactured Only by
Clinton L. Bruce,
LOWELL, MASS.

If you cannot get Bruce's Laxative Celery Quinine Tablets at your druggist, send 25 cents and they will be mailed you, with sample of Court Plaster.

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Insurance Agent
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Farm Property written; also, all kinds of Property placed in good strong companies.
42 EAST MAIN ST., AYER.

Highest Grade
PLUMBING
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AYER, MASS.

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For Every Occasion
DESIGN A SPECIALTY
HARDY ORNAMENTAL
PLANTS, TREES, SHRUBS
ALL ORDERS GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION

H. HUEBNER
GROTON, MASS.
Greenhouse near Groton School.
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MAIN-ST., TURNER'S BLDG., AYER, MASS
Miss R. T. FENNER, TYPEWRITER

E. D. HOWE, D. D. S.
Dental
Rooms
OVER WHIPPLE & TOWER'S STORE
EAST PEPPERELL, MASS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court.
To the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of Otis Brigham, late of Ayer, in said County, deceased.

Whereas, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by Daniel W. Fletcher, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to him, the executor therein named, without giving a surety on his official bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-eighth day of December, A. D. 1909, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day, at least, before said Court, and by mailing post-paid, or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fourth day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine.

3w13 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

Electric
Lamps
I am selling Guaranteed Carbon Electric Lamps, 8 and 16 c. p., for \$2.00 a dozen.

Give them a trial.
Geo. H. B. Turner, Ayer

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex ss. Probate Court.
To all persons interested in the estate of Eugene F. Nutting, of Groton, in said County.

Whereas, Ida S. P. Nutting, conservator of the property of said Eugene F. Nutting, has presented for allowance, her account as such conservator.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County, on the Twenty-Eighth day of December, A. D. 1909, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed.

And said conservator is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to all persons interested in the estate fourteen days at least before said Court, or by publishing the same once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court, and by mailing post-paid, a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this Fourth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine.

3w13 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

A Nice Assortment of
Democrat
Wagons
Concord
Buggies
Carriages,
Butcher
Carts
Harnesses

A GOOD ASSORTMENT AND AT ALL PRICES.
CALL AND SEE THEM

Carriage Repairing in All Its Branches Promptly Done
ALSO, HORSESHOEING AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHING

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To advance Paying Subscribers **ONLY ONE DOLLAR.**

All Advertisements Appear in All the Nine Papers we Publish.

We Publish the following Papers: Turner's Public Spirit, Ayer, Mass. The Groton Landmark. The Pepperell Clarion-Advertiser. The Littleton Guldion. The Westford Wardsman. The Harvard Hillside. The Shirley Oracle. The Townsend Tocsin. The Brookline Beacon.

Watch the Date on Your Paper
The date with your name is stamped on the margin shows to what time your subscription is paid, and serves as a continuous receipt.

Change of Address.
Subscribers wishing the postoffice address of their paper changed must send us both the old and new address.

Saturday, December 25, 1909.

PEPPERELL

East.

Unclaimed letters at the East Pepperell postoffice, December 20, are as follows: Walter Blake, "Bostonick," Mrs. Charles Harding, Frank Joy.

The annual meeting of the L. B. S. of the Congregational church will be held, Thursday afternoon, December 30, at 2.30 o'clock. At 6.30 p. m., in the vestry a supper will be served to which all members of the society are invited without further notice.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Harris of Hampstead, N. H., where Mr. Harris is station agent, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Harris, Pleasant street.

Tuesday, the shortest day of the year, is a welcome turn of the winter months.

Elwin Kemp of Groton, son of Chas. F. Kemp of this town, is seriously ill at the Massachusetts General hospital.

A small fire in the grass near the Tucker farm district and the playground caused considerable excitement, but was quickly put out by chemicals. It was evidently set carelessly by some one passing through.

Chief of Police Monteith has received word from Providence of the arrest of a former worker in this town. He not only worked at the mill awhile, but did his landlord out of money, clothes and a watch. He was arrested there last Saturday for the theft of \$250 in that city. His name is Wladseave Welouske, which translated is Velshilof Vedofski. After the courts there get through with him, it may be that this other case will be brought against him.

The young folk are enjoying splendid skating on Reed's pond, Blake's and also on the river. It is hoped Christmas day will have more ice, as some hockey games are being planned.

Basket ball is talked of among a few. It is a good clean game and should find plenty of aspirants for honors among high school boys. If a suitable place can be secured a town team is a sure thing.

John F. Tune took one of Dr. Merrill's hunting dogs to Boston, Saturday, and shipped it on the Clyde line steamer Kathadin, to Georgia, where the doctor is stopping.

E. M. Dunton has had his residence connected by telephone.

It is very seldom that corn drops in price, and at the same time pork goes up, but this seems to occur at present. There is a larger number of hogs than usual this fall, mostly all consumed by our local markets. The largest specimen is to the credit of Superintendent B. W. Parker at the town farm. It was dressed last week and weighed 580 pounds.

George H. Stewart advertises about losing a black robe between his farm and grange hall.

The work of covering the water main over the railroad bridge has been completed, and a coat of red applied. It is hoped the watering place on Main street will receive the necessary attention to insure against freezing, and assuring water for the horses.

Miss Gertrude Willey spent Sunday and Monday with friends at Brookline.

Amos Mahoney has started a new meat wagon. His many friends are glad to see him home after a long experience in a market at Athol, and the past year at Squire's in Boston.

There is no place in town where the pulse of the holiday season is better noted than at the Central telephone office. The use of this great time, worry and labor saver is constantly on the increase. There has been twenty new subscribers added during the past three months. Fully as many numbers have been changed. A look in at our Central during the rush hours shows you that the load is well handled by one operator, and that subscribers as well as the telephone com-

pany are fortunate that she is experienced as well as so capable, is evident to all.

A list of places in the outlying districts, which do not have hydrant protection, and where chemical extinguishers have been stationed by the fire commissioners has been furnished the central telephone office by that body. There are in all fifty-two of these valuable fire fighters thus distributed.

There has been a much-misunderstood discussion in regard to supplies for the town water works, so that many places already for water, might be connected. The delay in receipt of many orders of goose-neck connections and gate boxes is as annoying to the water board, as it is distressing to those waiting for water.

Herman Rice of Keene, N. H., is in town a guest of Mr. Rice, who has opened up the new pool-room.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. William Siney will regret to learn that their infant daughter, which was born Monday, brought happiness of but a few hours, as it passed away Wednesday evening. They have the sympathy of the entire community.

The supper at the Congregational church vestry next Thursday is for members of the L. B. S. only. There are many regrets, but there is also a wish that these faithful workers who have furnished so many excellent repasts and extended such unequalled hospitality, may have set before them a feast equal to the credit due them.

The school children are enjoying their vacation to the limit—splendid ice and weather makes them happy. The schools reopen Monday, January 3.

Last Sunday news was given out that Wilfred Attridge, aged twenty-three, had passed away at his home on Groton street. He has been in poor health for a number of years, and lived here all his life, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Attridge. His familiar figure seen each fall with his push cart, when early apples were ripe, will be missed. He was of a kindly disposition and found ready market when thus occupied. Interment was in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Postmaster A. P. Wright tells us holiday hours will prevail at the post office, Saturday, Christmas day, seven to 9.15 a. m., twelve to 1.15, and six to seven p. m.

Among the bright things of Yuletide is the return home of our students, boys and girls. Thomas Tarbell is home from Williams, Joseph Garvey Williston, Roscoe Woodward and Roger Robbins, Dean academy; Arthur Tower, Worcester academy; Boynton Merrill and Wendell Lovejoy, Mt. Hermon; Oscar Anderson, Amherst; Misses Margaret Anderson and Fannie Tower, Mt. Holyoke; Miss Cecil Tarbell, Wesleyan.

Francis Milan is home from Portsmouth, N. H., to spend Christmas with his parents, Tarbell street.

At the election of officers at the Ladies' Auxiliary, A. O. H., Thursday evening, the following were elected for 1910:

Mrs. C. Burke, pres.; Mrs. Lucy O'Brien, vice-pres.; Miss Elizabeth Sullivan, rec. sec.; Miss Nellie Guiney, fin. sec.; Mrs. Coffey, treas.; Miss Florence Kelley, mistress-at-arms; Miss Maud Kelley, sentinel.

Mrs. Louis Rowe and daughter left Thursday for Beachmont, where they will spend Christmas.

More machines arrived by freight Thursday for the shoe shop.

The fire department received word at ten o'clock, Thursday evening, of a grass fire on the line of the railroad toward Groton. Fire Chief W. M. Blood summoned help including the section men, and the chemicals did the trick.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Bancroft returned last Saturday from Springfield, where they enjoyed a week of interesting events at the State Grange convention, as delegates from Prescott grange.

Our king of hunters is H. F. Hobart, who has up to this time caught eleven foxes, a number of mink, and skunks galore. He shot two deer in our neighboring state during the open season, and his neighbors and many others enjoyed generous gifts of venison. His record cannot be equalled in many towns where the game is much more plenty.

The next meeting of Prescott grange will be on Friday, December 31, instead of December 24.

The East Village Social club will meet with Mrs. W. F. Parker, December 29. Subject, "New Year."

J. F. Cullinan, the restaurant man, has made special plans to serve his regular patrons with a Christmas dinner such as they would get at home.

Dramatic.
Don't miss her. "The village school ma'am," a comedy by local talent, under auspices of Beacon Dramatic Club. The veteran successful director, M. R. Gilchrist, is in charge and the humorous hits and funny parts are sure to please. The following cast of

characters assures successful reproduction.

Richard Elliot, storekeeper and postmaster. F. A. Conant. James B. Graham, a commercial traveller. H. F. Stenstream. Rev. M. Flick, the village parson. J. Levalley. Hosea Clegg, who belongs to the G. A. R. Mr. Gilchrist. Sam Alcott, who has more than a better half. J. G. Willey. Tad, just a boy. Nell McWilliams. Sylvia Lennox, the village school-marm. Miss Nellie Kiley. Ida May Alcott, who has had advantages. Mrs. Myra Attridge. Mrs. Alcott, her proud mama. somewhat forgetful. Mrs. D. Dort. Elvira Pratt, a dressmaker. Mrs. M. H. Blood. Posie, who was born tired. Miss Gladys Shattuck.

Christmas Shoppers.

Many careful buyers are heard to remark that at this time of the year the large city stores tuck on the prices. This was well illustrated this week by a citizen who went to Boston on business and intended to buy some clothing. He found he could buy what he wanted cheaper at Bellamy's and did so on his return. The same will be found to be true of about all the goods in our stores when quality is considered. A. J. Saunders & Son are offering exceptionally fine goods in extensive lines at bottom prices. Lane Brothers not only furnish you from head to toe, but invitingly arrange their exhibits in the best display of holiday decorations to be found for miles around. Very few of the stores have done any Christmas trimming at all, but as is his custom, our fruit dealer, Ralph Scipione, leads in this line. No finer arrangement of attractive decorating can be seen even including Boston stores. One of his front windows has been turned into a miniature vineyard. Clusters of the choicest grapes hang amid numerous sparkling electric lights. Another window has a vast assortment of the finest confections and fancy packages. This is brightly lighted by different colored electric bulbs, and in the center hangs a huge cornucopia of every color known. His entire store is especially arranged for the holiday season and speaks his interest in the town as well as his business.

Mansfield's pharmacy windows are attracting attention by the fine arrangement of Christmas goods. Swasey's store is full of all the things Santa Claus needs for young and old.

District Nurse Movement.

What will we do? is the slogan for the success or failure of our citizens' movement for a district nurse association. There is not a week goes by without furnishing proof of the need of such an institution. Like the telephone and the water works, when once understood in their true light it will become a permanent benefit. This noise need is necessary to the clean community; to the non-experienced sick; to the rich and poor alike, and incidentally as an educational movement. For any one who has had the experience of living in a town where their good work is done, can tell you of the valuable instruction to family as well as patient.

The citizens' committee met at Mrs. L. B. Heald's last Monday, and they announce that about four hundred pledged members are needed. A circular has been prepared and the following districts allotted the solicitors:

South Pepperell from Primus to and including Townsend street. Miss Ann Jewell and P. G. Hayes, Townsend street to Oak Hill. Mrs. E. L. Tarbell, North Village. Mrs. A. S. McNary, East Village and Nashua street. Mrs. C. B. Tarr, East Pepperell, south of Railroad, including business section. L. D. Rowand, High street and vicinity. Mrs. H. S. Tower, from Fitchburg railroad to Chase Hill, including River street. Mrs. Wm. Atkinson, Burkinshaw Vt. Lake. Rev. H. W. Fraughtbridge, Center Pepperell. Mrs. C. I. Hutchinson.

These names and the territory their work includes gives the true color to citizens interested. Those who may feel that this work is of small interest to them must realize the great good it will be for those who do have need of the best trained help when ill. This is not charity, neither is it denominational beneficence. It is universal helpfulness.

Center.

Mrs. Henry A. Wright, who went to Shelton, Conn., to spend Thanksgiving with her daughter's family, is still there. She has improved very much in health and expects to return home after Christmas.

The Woman's club met at Central hall on Tuesday afternoon and listened to an interesting lecture on Mexico and the Mexicans, given by Mrs. Frazer.

Louis P. Shattuck continues to improve and his friends are quite hopeful now of his recovering his former health.

Mr. Richardson is improving by the open-air treatment at the Bancroft farm.

Mrs. Alice L. Spencer came on Friday to spend Christmas with her mother, Mrs. Walter E. Jewett.

Neighbors and friends contributed quite a handsome Christmas gift for Mrs. Mary Hayes. John has obtained employment serving Charles H. Fitch, attending to fires and other duties.

The scholars and teachers have returned home this week for the Christmas festivities. Boynton Merrill, from Mt. Hermon; Fanny Tower from Mt. Holyoke; Arthur Tower, from Worcester academy; Miss Mae Merlam from Mt. Ida seminary, Newton; Carrie Shattuck of the Bridgewater school; Marshall Merlam of Providence Y. M. C. A.; and Elba Merlam of Brighton Bank; are among the number.

Dr. Frank H. MacCarthy and family spend Christmas at Mrs. J. E. B. Jewett's, Mrs. MacCarthy's mother's home. Mrs. Hamblett of Willow street goes to Worcester to visit her daughters, Mrs. Ida Hildreth and Mrs. Hattie Daniels.

Mrs. Bertha Pranger of Lynn and Mrs. Alice Fox and her daughter, Doris Fox, of Dracont, will spend Christmas with their mother, Mrs. Nellie Fuller, at her home on Townsend street.

A very enjoyable Christmas service was held last Sunday morning at the Unitarian church, participated in by the Sunday school. The auditorium was very prettily decorated with evergreen. Rev. Dudley R. Child's sermon and scripture reading from St. Luke's gospel, second chapter, eighteenth verse, formed the basis of the service. "Glory to God in the highest, and on

BELLAMY'S

A Large Line of CLOTHING

Everything for Man or Boy at

Cut Prices

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Successors to G. H. Swift

East Pepperell, Mass.

Christmas Suggestions

For the Boys and Girls we have a complete line of Cutlery, Skates, Sleds and Pole Sticks. See our display of Bissell's Carpet Sweepers. The most useful present for your wife. Necessities to prepare that Christmas dinner—Savoy Roasters, Double Roasters, Bake Pans, Agate, Enamel and Tinware. Look in our windows and see what we have. Our prices are right. Plumbers, Heaters, Tinsmiths, Hardware and Kitchen Goods. **LAWRENCE BLOCK.**

Stenstream & Deloid, R. R. Sq., East Pepperell

earth peace, good-will towards men," was the theme of the carols, which were sung. Mrs. Wardwell Parker's little son sang a solo with a very clear utterance. The entire service was very uplifting. There was a very good attendance.

The Congregational church will have a Christmas service next Sunday; also a Sunday school concert and a tree on Christmas eve.

For other Pepperell news see first page.

TOWNSEND.

Center.

Miss Ethel Rockwood arrived home from the Johns Hopkins Medical university, Baltimore, Thursday, for the holidays.

George Ducharme of Winthrop was in town this week. The household goods of Rev. F. B. Harrison were loaded upon the cars Wednesday for shipment to Southington, Conn. Mr. Harrison ends his pastorate here January 1. Mrs. Harrison and children are visiting her parents at Worcester for a few weeks.

The S. S. Haynes place upon Bayberry hill, now occupied by George Borneman and the Morse Brothers came near going up in flames Wednesday, but for the timely use of a fire extinguisher. Had the fire extinguisher, which is one of those put out in the outskirts by the town, not been handy, the building would undoubtedly have been burned before help could have arrived from town.

Nearly all in the family of Miles Wyeth are ill with measles and severe colds.

New Advertisements.

FOR SALE.—In Fitchburg, a Two-Tonement House with modern improvements, near Normal School. Inquire of W. A. ATWOOD, 444 Main St., Fitchburg, Mass. 415.

WANTED.—Situation as Housekeeper with old lady or gentleman by competent lady; best reference. Address Housekeeper, 84 Bridge St., Lowell, Mass. 1115.

What You Want. When You Want It, As You Want It.

Xmas Gifts

In China, Silverware, Watches, Clocks, a Complete Line of Jewelry, Latest Designs, at

W. A. Kemp's

Main Street, East Pepperell, Mass.

Telephone 67-12.

ALL GOODS BOUGHT OF US ENGRAVED FREE OF CHARGE!

A. F. PARKER NEWS AGENCY

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Christmas Stationery, Books, Games, Special Quality.

Main Street East Pepperell, Mass.

All Advertisements Are Inserted In All The Nine Papers We Publish,

Our Subscription Books are open to all advertisers and we will furnish a sworn statement of the circulation of our Nine Papers in which all the advertisements appear.

Copies of our Nine Papers are all delivered every week through the post-offices to which they go, into the families of all subscribers.

JOHN. H. TURNER, AYER, MASS.