

Variable Vignettes

Lyons had a fat man's ball on Thursday; the fattest man there was a woman, 398 pounds. *Maquoketa Excelsior*, March 17, 1870.

A Norwegian wife at Sioux City has presented her husband with a baby weighing twenty one pounds. *The Tipton Advertiser*, June 2, 1870.

Since the commencement of the religious revival at Cedar Rapids, a total of 241 members have been added to the different churches. *Maquoketa Excelsior*, March 17, 1870.

Brigham Young's favorite wife, the queen of his harem, is an Iowa girl. She was formerly Amelia Folsom, of Council Bluffs. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 3, 1869.

Keokuk is agitating for a co-operative store. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 30, 1869.

Wild turkeys are plenteous around Iowa City. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 23, 1869.

Quails in Wapello 50 cents per doz. and prairie chickens 15 cents each. *Washington County Press*, December 1, 1869.

Chinese coin is becoming a circulating medium in some northwestern Iowa towns. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, January 20, 1870.

An Appanoose county farmer has sold \$121.72 worth of butter and eggs within a year. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 30, 1869.

At Sioux City the young men amuse themselves on the Sabbath, in playing ball. The [Sioux City] Journal in-

quires for the whereabouts of the authorities. *Humboldt County Independent*, July 21, 1870.

Diphtheria is raging in Cedar Rapids. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, November 25, 1869.

Marion county has paid \$1,495.50 for gopher scalps the present year. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, November 25, 1869.

Forty trains a day is the railroad tally for Des Moines. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, November 25, 1869.

Western Iowa breeds grasshoppers an inch across the back. *The Clinton Age*, December 2, 1870.

The Iowa Legislature had eleven hundred dollars worth of pictures taken, during its last session. *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), April 28, 1870.

Lillie Belmont, of Council Bluffs, sent a bullet through a saloon keeper's arm, at the Northwestern depot. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, November 25, 1869.

A Muscatine doctor has captured from one Joseph Barrick a tape worm sixty feet long. *The Tipton Advertiser*, March 24, 1870.

"Pa, what is the use of giving our pigs so much milk?"
"So that they may make hogs of themselves, darling."
Delaware County Union, October 28, 1869.

Fayette varies the monotony of dancing by marrying willing couples, an elder being kept in readiness in an ante-chamber. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, January 6, 1870.

Dubuque is arguing the alternatives of paying its debts or quitting the farce of being a city. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, January 6, 1870.

Bloomfield must be a good place to live in—the butcher stalls exhibit buffalo, antelope, deer, beef, sheep, hog, turkey, chicken and fish. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, January 6, 1870.

Mt. Pleasant raised its license from fifty to five hundred

dollars for each billiard table. This put an end to the business in that town. *Grand Junction Head-Light*, January 1, 1870.

The Purdy boys have received a perfect beauty of a cutter from Dubuque. If we don't have a ride in it then our name is not Bivins. *The Lansing Mirror*, November 30, 1869.

"Husband. I must have some change, today." "Well, stay home, and take care of the children: that will be change enough." *Henry Co. Press*, December 9, 1868.

Singing Schools and the consequent "going home with the girls," have commenced in the rural districts. *Humboldt County Independent*, November 2, 1870.

They are going to have a big wolf hunt at Gosport in Marion County on Christmas. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 23, 1869.

An Iowa City Sunday school juvenile is bothering his teacher by asking where Mrs. Cain came from. *Washington County Press*, December 1, 1869.

Elkader has 3 doctors, 5 lawyers, 2 churches, 2 newspapers, 2 schools, 1 brewery, 1,200 people, and no bank. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 23, 1869.

Cow Law.—Remember that on tomorrow—Wednesday, Dec. 1st—the city cow law, requiring all cows to be kept up, and not allowed to run loose about the streets, goes into effect. *The Lansing Mirror*, November 30, 1869.

Owing to the great influx of emigration the past fall, every building or house of any kind has from one to three families as tenants. *Northern Vindicator* (Estherville), March 19, 1870.

Ice Cream Party.—The Ice Cream Party given at the Iowa House by Mrs. Holloway last Friday evening, was a very pleasant affair. Good music, a good supper and good humor were the general features that combined to

make all who tripped the "light fantastic" well pleased with the evening's entertainment. *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), May 26, 1870.

An urchin of seven years, went into a barber shop in Keokuk and ordered the barber to cut his hair as close as shears could do it. He was asked if his mother ordered it that way. "No," said he, "but school commences next week, and we've got a school ma'm that pulls hair." *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, January 20, 1870.

Stop It.—The juveniles who are in the habit of running their sleds down the sidewalks, ought to stop it. If they don't know any better themselves, their parents ought to learn them. They get the walks so slippery that one can set down a little too hard without warning. Let the sliding be stopped. *The Lansing Mirror*, November 30, 1869.

The new Presbyterian Church at Des Moines was dedicated on Sunday last. Its cost so far has been \$60,000; by the time the spire is completed it will be but a little below \$66,000. This does not include the "Allen" organ. Every other pew in the church is reserved for strangers and the poor. Mr. Allen has as yet, paid all the bills presented, and assumed as his own contribution, one half the whole cost, including this about \$34,000 have been already raised. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, January 6, 1870.

We have recently laid out "New Cherokee," one mile south of the old town. The site of the new town is a beautiful plateau that slopes gradually to the edge of the Little Sioux, a stream that furnishes good mill power, and whose borders are quite thickly covered with various kinds of timber. At this point the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad crosses the above river. *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), June 23, 1870.

The work of taking the United States census will commence on the 1st of June. The compensation for the serv-

ice is two cents for every name taken, ten cents for every farm, fifteen cents for every productive establishment of industry, two cents for every deceased person, two per cent of the gross amount for names enumerated for social statistics, and ten cents a mile for travel. The questions to be propounded are "too numerous to mention." *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), May 5, 1870.

Billiard Hall.—Getts, Benson & Co. commenced the erection of a two-story frame, on Main street, near Eleventh, on Wednesday, which, when completed, will be used as a billiard hall. We understand that no intoxicating liquors are to be kept, which is certainly commendable to the man engaging in the enterprise. That free and easy expounder of the Ten Commandments, Henry Ward Beecher, thinks there's no harm in punching the balls, and of course what a preacher preaches has more or less truth in it. *Grand Junction Head-Light*, January 1, 1870.

The wires of the great western telegraph company reached Iowa City on Saturday. They will be extended to Omaha by the middle of April. *Maquoketa Excelsior*, March 17, 1870.

Susan B. Anthony, although without posterity, is not without a name-sake. Furniture dealers are now calling their single bedsteads "Anthonys." *The Lansing Mirror*, July 20, 1869.

In the Mississippi River trade there are now 910 steamers, with a capacity of 282,174 tons, and valued at \$24,550,000. More steamboats are enrolled at St. Paul than any other port on the Mississippi River proper, except St. Louis, New Orleans and Memphis. *The Lansing Mirror*, August 24, 1869.

The Bible in public schools is a subject of discussion at Iowa City. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, February 3, 1870.

There are to be no 'grab-bags' or other distasteful

means of extorting money out of the public at the festival to-night. *The Cherokee Times*, December 20, 1872.

Denison has a farmer's wives' club. The next subject of discussion will be "How to make good Bread." *The Cherokee Times*, December 5, 1872.

A big deer hunt at Atlantic resulted in catching nothing but bad colds. *Weekly Davenport Democrat*, December 16, 1869.

The largest and best known beer breweries in Iowa are owned by women. *Iowa Age* (Clinton), January 15, 1869.

Six hundred live quails were shipped from Dubuque to Massachusetts a few days ago. *The Iowa Age* (Clinton), January 15, 1869.

A piece of lard as large as a walnut, mixed with dough, will cause a hen to commence laying immediately after she has been broken up from setting. *The Lansing Mirror*, June 29, 1869.

Our grain dealers are paying five cents more per bushel for wheat than can be had at any other point in Boone or Greene counties. This is what comes from having two railroads at our doors.—*Grand Junction Head-light*, quoted in *Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), May 26, 1870.

The last week or so the roads have been literally lined with "prairie schooners" seeking locations in this "garden of the world," as high as sixty wagons a day crossing the river at this point. One noticeable feature is the large number of cattle that are being brought in by the immigrants. There is no finer country in the world for stock than this, and hosts of people seem to have found it out. We are glad to see them come, and extend a cordial welcome to them all.—*Cherokee Chief*. *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), June 2, 1870.

STREET LAMPS.—We see in many of our exchanges that street lamps in towns not near as large as Lansing, are being put up. Large lamps are manufactured especially

for this purpose, and the expense of running them is said to be very small. Why not have about six or eight of these lamps for Main Street, and the same number for Front? Belated individuals would rejoice at the arrangement and it would favorably impress strangers with the commendable enterprise of our citizens. *The Lansing Mirror*, November 30, 1869.

SKATING PARKS.—A stranger having looked over our city, says he shall locate here and invest his funds, because the city Fathers have been very liberal in the establishment of skating parks, and he thinks that a city that looks after the pleasures of the little folks, must be in a prosperous condition. We hope no one will tell him that those skating ponds on the several streets are mud holes, that the city will certainly fill up in the spring. Keep still. Others may get taken in the same way. *The Iowa Age* (Clinton), January 8, 1869.

Another mammoth shipment has been made from Dubuque to Europe by way of Orleans. Five barges, towed by a steamer, were loaded with 55,000 bushels bulk wheat, 42,000 bushels sacked oats, 700 barrels of flour, besides a large quantity of meat and other products. The grain already amounts to 1,000,500 bushels, and we understand the cargo was insured for \$88,000. Another feature that is in connection with this trip is that the fuel of the Antelope consists of Fort Dodge coal, taken from the mines of Platt Smith & Co. she being the first boat on the river to fill her bunkers with Iowa coal. This is sensible. It sounds good to hear that Iowa is sending her exports to the sea by the natural highway, with the motive power from her own coal mines.—*Iowa State Register*, quoted in *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), May 5, 1870.

DRYING UP.—Just before and after each term of the District Court, we notice that a considerable number of the little slab-shanty-whisky-dens that infest our city,

"dry up," and are offered "for sale or to let," which information is given to the public on a pine shingle or barrel-head nailed up on the premises. The admiration existing between whisky dens and newspapers is believed to be mutual. No respectable newspaper will advertise their abominable traffic, and it is not generally calculated to soothe the feelings of whisky dealers to read newspapers.—If there is anything that we can consistently do to aid these vagabonds to run away, to get into the penitentiary, or to commit suicide, or in any other way permanently rid the country of their blighting presence, we would gladly tender them our services free of expense. *The Iowa North West* (Fort Dodge), May 12, 1870.

THE SOCIAL EVIL ON A SPREE

A dance at the Theatre Comique
Disgusting Carnival of Sin
A Contest and its Result.

The dance at the Theatre Comique yesterday morning—we say morning, because the dancers did not begin to let themselves out and shake their heels in earnest until after the hour of midnight—was the event of the season among the fancy.

There were present about forty men and eighteen women, and they were dressed in every style known on the Missouri slope. The women, at the commencement of the dance, were rather modestly attired. The men, some of them, flourishing diamonds and some of them flourished brass knuckles and whisky bottles.

The music began at about 12 o'clock, and the degraded and the frail formed on for a cotillion soon afterwards. The figures were executed with more vigor than is usual outside of the "social evil;" and the vigor, astonishing to start with, became more marked as the hop proceeded.

In the midst of the bent a steamboat rooster was over-

heard to accost another of his kind with, "Do you see that girl?" pointing to a sly piece of calico on the opposite side of the hall, flying around like a horse fly in a strange stall; well, she can dance the rags off the club room stock, you see if she can't. It seems there was a rivalry existing between two girls, one being the champion beer jerker at the Club Room and the other occupying a similar position at the Manke Grove Garden.

The music ceased, and each man took his partner to the bar, and smiled, paying fifteen cents for the privilege, this being the price for the dancing and the drinks. This operation was repeated at the end of each set.

Everything passed off remarkably quiet until about 3 o'clock, when the scene began to present a very animated aspect. The two rival female dancers now attracted a greater portion of the attention of the house; which now, truth compels us to say, was becoming quite drunk. Women and men in passing each other in the changes of the dance, would make frequent collisions, occasioning many hard words and numerous rollings on the floor. But still there was nothing up to this time to mar the pleasure of the occasion, and all were "as happy as a big sun flower." Another hour passed, and things had become fearfully mixed. The bartender, the women, the men, and the music were all drunk, and didn't "care whether school kept to-day or to-morrow." The attention was now entirely centered on the two rival beer jerkers who were still "hoeing it down like smoke." A ring was now formed and the two jerkers now entered it for death or victory.

We must confess that the dress of the women had undergone a material change by this time. The contestants for the championship were dressed for a long heat. Betting now became very lively, the two steamboat roosters making a bet that the rags would be danced off both the jerkers and they were right.

As the contestants became thoroughly warmed up, they disrobed until the garden was barefooted up to her ears, and the other jerker was dressed about as much as a man would be with a pair of suspenders on! Still they danced, but suddenly the garden girl began to weaken. It was becoming evident she would be beaten, when one of her backers gave the signal for a free fight, which was had by extinguishing the only remaining lamp in the room, thus prematurely terminating the contest and winding up the night's festivities unceremoniously. *Sioux City Journal*, 1869.

There was no "Generation Gap" in 1869

The *Muscatine Journal* says that four children, two boys and two girls, about fourteen years old all around, who had become infatuated with the *Ledger's* romances of forest life, crossed the river lately and took to the woods to dig a cave and live a Gipsy or Indian life, but their parents got wind of the affair before they reached a lodge in some vast wilderness, and spanked the nonsense out of them. *Washington County Press*. December 1, 1869.