

HOME MATTERS.

Personal.

WILL RECEIVE ON MONDAY.

Mrs. Hapeman, Mrs. E. J. Gillen, Miss Clara King, with Mrs. A. Lynch and daughter, east side. The Rev. F. M. Gregg, Rector of Christ Church, will be at home on Monday, after 2 o'clock, to receive his gentlemen friends.

Mrs. Geo. V. Hull, Miss Chandler, Miss Davis, Miss Mae Blanchard and the Misses McArthur, with Mollie Osman, west side.

Mrs. F. N. Hossack, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Ida Strawn, Miss Grace Mayo, Miss Sue Richard son, with the Misses Porter, after one o'clock, at the residence of J. E. Porter, south bluff.

STOUT.—Dr. John Stout, of Peoria, was in Ottawa this week.

Mc.—B. J. McGinnis spent Christmas with his friends in Ottawa.

DOOLAN.—Miss Doolan, La Porte, Ind., is the guest of Miss Amy Gregg.

XMAS.—Christmas gifts: To John Morse, a boy; to Henry Holmes, a girl.

MILLER.—Mr. W. B. Miller, of Sheridan, has been very ill for the past week.

FISHER.—Miss Fisher, Coldwater, Mich., is the guest of Miss Katie Mae Smith.

Mc.—The Misses McArthur, of Aurora, are at Dr. McArthur's, on the west side.

CATON.—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Caton spent Christmas in Joliet with Mr. Caton's people.

Geo.—Geo. Medill, now of D. Heenan & Co.'s, Streator, was in greeting his Ottawa friends yesterday.

ANN.—Ed. Bull, Norman Hinsdale and Tom Lynch are home from Ann Arbor for the holidays.

HEER.—Herr John Zwanzig, just from "Fatherland," has taken a position in the Herald office.

BIRD.—Kittie Crooks, Moreie Eddy, Laura Gaylord, Lockport, are visiting with Birdie Hapeman.

BLACK.—Mr. John S. Black and family, of Iowa, have this week been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Forbes.

MATHER.—Mr. and Mrs. Mather, Chicago, spent Christmas with Mr. L. H. Eames and the Sherwoods, in this city.

SKIFF.—W. E. Skiff, one of J. E. Porter's traveling men, have into port yesterday from Iowa, to spend New Year's in Ottawa.

CLARK.—Miss Charlotte Clark, of Utica, was in this city this week. She has been reading lately with much success in Indiana.

GILMAN.—William Gilman, the genial painter, has been flourishing an elegant gold headed cane since Christmas from his employees.

NASH.—Information comes that Rev. and Mrs. F. B. Nash, now at Philadelphia, this week lost their younger boy, aged one year, after a short illness.

BECK.—Charles Beckwith, late with Manley, Jordan & Cowles, has gone to Peoria, taking a position with Cutler & Co., hardware wholesalers of that city.

CASE.—Circuit Clerk Taylor sports an elegant gold-headed cane, "X-mas" from the clerks of the office, and one of the handsomest one can see in many a day.

BREWER.—Yorkville Record: "Lawyer Brewer, of Ottawa, was in attendance at our county court last week. He is a very pleasant gentleman for a lawyer."

REDDICK.—Times: Mrs. Auld and daughter and Mrs. J. N. Auld, of Vinton, Iowa, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Reddick and other relatives.

Mrs. Auld and Mrs. Reddick are sisters.

PRIZES.—At the rink, on Thursday evening, Miss Annie Hatheway and Charley E. Hook captured the prizes for best lady and gentleman skaters. The prizes were a pair of skates.

VOGT.—Ed. Vogt, late with Hull & Bartels has taken a position in the dry goods store of Henry Brown, La Salle. Ed. is a fine young fellow, and will make Mr. Brown a valuable man.

CULLEN.—Hon. Wm. Cullen is home from Washington for the holiday recess. We are indebted to him already for valuable public documents—the more welcome because they are in truth valuable.

TEXAS.—John Dunavan and family, of Dayton, have moved to Denton, Texas, which will be their home for the future.—Messrs. Jos. Barnes, of Rutland, and DeWitt B. Snow, of this city, also started this week for the same state.

The Telephone.

DINGE FOR THE YEAR.

Orphan hours, the year is done, Come and sigh, come and weep Merry hours, make instead. For the year is but asleep. See, it smiles as it is sleeping, Mocking your untimely weeping.

As an earthquake rocks a corse In its coffin, in the city, So the year is shaking its nurse, Rocks the dead and dead to day; Sighs and sobs, and wails, For your mother in law is dead.

As the wild air it is and sways The tree swang cradle of a child, So the breath of these rude days, Rocks the year—the calm and mild, Frembling hours, she will arise With new love within her eyes.

January grey is here, Like a season by her grave; February weeps by her side, March with a jello do howl and rave, And April weeps—but, O ye hours, Follow with May's fairest flowers. —Shelley.

THE NEW YEAR.

Hark, the cock crows, and you bright star Tells us, the day himself is not far; And see where, breaking from the night, He glides the western hills with light. Peeping into the future view, With such a look as seems to say, The prospect is not good that way.

Thus do we rise in sighs to see, And 'gainst our wishes to profess; When the sun looks from the east, A more forbidding miened brings. More full of soul tormenting grief Than direct mischance can befall. But stay! but stay! methinks my sight, Better informed by clearer light, Discerns a newness in that glow, That all our ratiocination show, His reverend face may show distaste, And from upon his brows are past; But that which this way looks to bear, And smiles in on the New Year.

He looks for from a peace so bright, The Year lies upon his face, And all the moments open are To the exact discoverer. Yet more and more he smiles upon The happy revolution.

Why should we then suspect or fear The influences of the first morn, And speak us good so soon as born; Plague out the last was ill enough, This cannot but make better proof; Or, at the worst, as we brush'd through The last, why so we may this day, And then the next to reason should Be supererogatory good; For the worst ill (w. daily e) Have no more perpetuity Than the best fortunes that do fall; Which also bring us what we call Longer their being's support.

Than those of the what sort; And who has one good year in three, And yet repines at destiny, Appears ungrateful in the case, And merits not the good he has. Then let us welcome the New Year, With lusty benedictions of the best; Mirth all ways shone in our Fortunes meet, And renders 'em Divines sweet; And though the Prince's turn be back, Let us but live ourself's with sack, We better shall be by a hundred out, Till the next Year she face about. —Chas. Lamb.

The Earlville Leader comes to us, the home part printed on new type, eight pages. The Leader is a very good country paper and is evidently growing into favor in the north end of the county.

The Peruvians are still swearing mad at the Rock Island road. They have made the company cut down their rate of speed, and are now about to try some sort of an experiment to get trains to stop there as well as at La Salle, or the depot on the division line.

Here is Streater's latest, as outlined by the Free Press: "The scheme is to get very powerful engines for pumping, the escaped steam from which will be almost sufficient to heat nearly every public building in the city, to use the engines for pumping at all hours except when lights are required, then to use them for electric lights. A surplus of water for all purposes having been provided before the hours when lights are necessary. A complete system for lighting, heating and watering the town can thus be provided at a comparatively moderate expense, while the investment would undoubtedly be profitable. Water works are necessary in the near future, and the other two features can be connected with them at a light additional cost."

The Chicago Tribune of Tuesday of last week states that the stockholders of the Indiana, Illinois and Iowa railroad held a meeting Monday at the office of the company, No. 110 Dearborn st., Chicago. It was decided to consolidate the interest in the three states, securing a general charter to supersede the individual corporations. Previous to 1873, 65 miles in Indiana and 40 miles in Illinois had been graded, and it is expected to have laid before January 165 miles of steel rails between Muncie and Streater. The road will cross the Illinois river at Henry, 130 miles from Chicago, and will run east, striking the Pan-Handle at North Jackson, Ind., 130 miles from Henry, and continuing strike the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne 30 miles further east. The road is intended as a cut off from Chicago on through freight, transferring from the Illinois Central, the Burlington, the Alton and the Rock Island to the eastern trunk lines without coming within 100 miles of Chicago—a movement which seems to be a direct blow at Chicago interests. The directors will hold a meeting shortly to complete the consolidation and elect permanent officers.

Now that all reports are in, we see that besides the FREE TRADEL there are but two papers in this county—the La Salle Democrat and the Peru Herald—that "took a drop" on the dead scheme of the Board of Supervisors to get their proceedings published at the expense of the publishers. To say that these proceedings, published four weeks after the Board adjourned, are news is nonsense—since the FREE TRADEL published the whole thing—unofficially, it is true,—the Saturday following the adjournment on Thursday, and always does, and in spite of the lying sneer of the Streater Free Press to the contrary, for nothing and all ways has. The publication of the official proceedings is advertising, and is considered everywhere where supervisors are disposed to treat newspapers decently. And the FREE TRADEL wants it distinctly understood that it publishes news as news, and advertising as advertising; that it doesn't propose to give the Board of Supervisors or any man advertising space for which business men who patronize us regularly pay fair prices and for which they always expect to pay. To do otherwise would be an unfair discrimination which the FREE TRADEL will not make for anybody. It may be well enough to publish the

proceedings broadcast in the county papers. If it is done it should be paid for.

The Coal Interest.

The First Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of Illinois has been received from the Secretary of State. The report of the Bureau is quite full, making an 8mo. book of over 240 pages. As La Salle county is at least the second largest producing county in the state, (the absence of reports for 1880 from some counties making it rank indifferently) the report of the Bureau on the "Coal-Mining Industry" will prove interesting. We here make the following extracts from the report:

The coal production of Illinois has made rapid progress during the past two decades. According to the returns of the United States Census Bureau, there was mined in 1859 in this state, 28,400 tons. In 1870 the product was 2,624,163 tons, while the same authority estimates the product of 1880 at over 6,000,000 tons. The following table shows the production of the different counties in the state in which coal is mined for 1870, according to the census return for that year. The column for 1880 is compiled from the reports of Mine Inspectors to the Governor. These latter returns are in many instances unreliable, for the reason that the inspectors are enabled, by the operations of the mining law, from collecting full and detailed statistics. In the leading counties, however, the figures given are correct, and show the growth of production commensurate with the development of dependent industries.

Table with 2 columns: Counties and Tons. Lists counties like Bureau, Clinton, Gibson, Grundy, Jackson, Jersey, Kane, LaSalle, Livingston, Madison, McHenry, Menard, Morgan, Montgomery, Peoria, Perry, Pope, Randolph, Richland, Rock Island, St. Clair, St. Louis, Taylor, Vermilion, Warren, Woodford, Woodhull, York and their corresponding tonnage for 1870 and 1880.

Total, 2,614,063 2,967,576. Total, 47 counties make no report for 1870 or 1880. In La Salle county there were on Jan. 15, 1880, the date of the last report of the mine inspector, 56 mines with a capital of \$1,200,000, and employing 1678 men. We think 1880 will show a large increase of the industry. Coal is mined in Streater, La Salle, Pope, Ogleby, Saucan, Mark Streator, Dismick tp., Ottawa, Lowell, Deer Park. The inspector says one third of this county contains what is known as third vein coal, and one sixth of the county what is known as second vein. In Grundy county in 1879 there were 15 companies and operators, the majority of whom are working near Morris. In the county there are reported to be 125 1/2 acres of workable coal lands, of which 135 have been worked out. There is one vein, three feet thick, found at 30, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80, 100 and 117 feet from the surface, worked by shafts, employing 529 men, producing 155,000 tons.

Touching the operation of the mining law, the Bureau says: That portion of the law governing the inspection of the mines has failed to be of benefit to the operatives, owing to the appointment of inspectors and the provision for their payment existing in the hands of the coal owners. Under this system the time allowed to be used by the inspectors in performing the duties required of them is cut down to the shortest time which will suffice to go over the mines once a year, and the pay is so low that it is more than a man could make while at work in a mine. As a rule the inspectors appointed are practical miners, and in many localities an impartial performance of their duties and the enforcement of the mining law would deprive the inspectors from obtaining work at their trade, leaving the balance of the time they were unemployed in the exercise of their office. The greatest amount of time of low pay inspector in the state which has come under our notice was that allowed the inspector of mines in St. Clair county in 1879, which was thirty days. There were then 82 mines in operation in that county, and it is easy to see how little he could properly do toward enforcing the law by the inspector in that time. St. Clair county produced in 1870 nearly one third of the coal mined in the entire state. It had long been the scene of periodical strikes and lockouts, and its coal-pit and its laboring men were in a most formidable of any in the state; and a severe and proper enforcement of the mining law, it will be necessary to place the officer making the inspection independent of any local influences, particularly those which place the officer appointed to do a certain duty at the mercy of the operators of mines for the greater portion of the year. The only feasible method which occurs to us is to district the mining counties of the state into such number of districts as will require the entire time of the inspectors, place their appointment in the hands of some department of the state not allied to this industry, and pay for the cost of the inspection from a fund to be raised by placing such tax on the product of the mines as will raise the amount necessary. There could be no more objection raised to this method than has been raised against the system of grants inspection enforced in the state, and which has been so generally satisfactory. Until some such system is adopted in place of the present "county board" method, no satisfactory results can be obtained.

The complaint in regard to the failure of the inspectors comes from nearly every county in the state. There are two or three notable exceptions, namely: Sangamon, La Salle and perhaps one or two others, but even here the performance of their duty by the inspectors is traceable to conditions of independence which nine times out of ten are not met with in the first named county the inspector is a stockholder in the operative mining company; and, in the second county, there is a more general system of good management in the working of mines by the operators, which leads them to respect and carry out the provisions of the law. In all the other counties the cry comes from both miners and inspectors alike for a change in the system. In three-fifths of the returns made to this Bureau by operators in mines, these complaints have been made. The provisions of the law, so far as they relate to the management of mines, are comprehensive enough to meet the wants of any section of the state; all that is needed is an effective method of enforcement.

As to the social condition of the coal miners generally throughout the state, the Bureau offers in conclusion, drawn from the answers to enquiries made in all parts of the state: The inquiry into the manner of life and the earnings of the coal mine employees of the state cannot but be struck with the comparative poverty of comfort which prevails in all mining centers and mining towns. This condition is traceable to many causes, and the remedy must needs be slow in operation, and will take at least a generation of time and the most progressive and enabling influences to effect a very marked change. There has been a great deal of bad blood developed in different ways by both operators and their employees, and the present aspect of affairs seems to warrant the opinion that but little can be hoped for in the near future in the way of any peaceable settlement of the wages question in this industry. Whatever there may exist it is but an "armed truce," and is likely to be broken at the first opportunity by either party to the question. Both sides have treated their mutual interests with a very sparing liberality, and are well aware of vengeance on the other. So true is this that in one of the largest mining counties in the state it was impossible for miners who had been placed on the "black list" to go into business for themselves and get an outside market for their produce.

Perhaps no body of our laborers, taken as a whole, have made as little progress from their

condition of mere wage-workers as the miners of the state, and it is a question which concerns the whole state, as well as the employers of these men and the people who live in their immediate communities, whether this condition cannot be much improved in the near future. The majority of our mining population is of foreign birth or parentage, and, as a rule, the sons of miners follow the employment of their fathers. The coal facilities which the great majority of our mining communities offer are not of the best grade, owing to the low state of general intelligence of the mass, and a lack of knowledge how to develop schools which are of the better class on the parts of the parents themselves, and the disinclination on the part of property owners to pay a higher rate of taxes than the form of complying with the school law. There is a general desire on the part of the larger portion to give their children a better education than they possessed, and a corresponding effort on the part of that portion to deprive themselves of many bodily comforts that their children's minds may be disciplined, trained and educated for the higher spheres of life; but the conditions under which they have been born and bred, the manner in which they have been educated, the habits and lack of economic training to which they have all their lives been accustomed, dwarf and cripple their efforts to accomplish any very rapid progress upward other spheres of life and action. These facts are worthy of the intelligent consideration of all who have any interest in the progressive development of our state, and wherever it can be done legislation should be shaped so as to remedy these evils. A rigid enforcement of that provision of our mining law which prevents the employment of children in mines, together with a compulsory education law, would have most beneficial and although it would take time to realize its influence and effects. Added to these, the co-operation of employers in the matter of the establishment of libraries, co-operative enterprises, the doing away with drunkenness and the abuse of liquor, and the generation of a more healthful spirit of "live and let live" on both sides would soon produce a marked change in the lives and homes of this growing body of our people. The coal mining industry is rapidly becoming a very important one in the state; it has developed from a point of about eight hundred thousand tons in 1860, to over six millions in 1880, and its increase will be nearly double in the next ten years. It behooves us, then, to study this question with seriousness, and build our industrial foundations so deep and strong that we shall see no repetition of the scenes of 1877 in our mining communities. An earnest course of preparation, worth a pound of cure" in industrial as well as in physical disease.

This is a question which is one of the most mooted of any which has come before us. During the fall and winter seasons a good workman can earn in the majority of the mines of the state, from \$50 to \$90 per month. The average earnings, however, will hardly exceed \$400 the year round, and taken one year with another, will not average that amount for the past ten years. The prices paid per ton for mining vary with different localities, from 65 cents to \$1 per ton. The output during the summer months is small, and, excepting in manufacturing districts, or where mine owners have contracts for supplying railroads with coal, the product falls off on an average about three-fifths. There is a general disinclination on the part of the operators to furnish information on these questions, and in the absence of any authority to compel the return of information, reliable statistics cannot be furnished, but what have been prepared are the result of careful and impartial study, and a desire to treat the question as it deserves.

On the 13th of December 1881, by J. W. Wood, Esq., at the residence of Samuel Gardner, in the county of St. Clair, Illinois, J. SIBERT and Miss MARY SKINNER, both of Deer Park.

At the Clinton House, Thursday, Dec. 28th, by Rev. E. C. Arnold, Mr. CHARLES DOLL and Miss CLARA O'NEIL, both of Streater.

On Dec. 21, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Columbus McCabe, of spinal disease, aged 6 years. The lad was taken with an attack of marial fever, terminating in the dread spinal disease, which produced death after a week's illness. He was a bright, intelligent lad, and his death is most keenly felt by his bereaved parents.

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New Advertisements.

THIMBLE SKEIN FARM TRUCK Only \$25 CASH. We have a few Odd Sized THRESHERS TRUCKS, just the thing for Farm Use, which we offer Below Cost, shipped to any address upon receipt of price. H. A. PITTS SONS MAN'G CO., Marseills, La Salle Co., Ills.

New Advertisements.

COAL. DINNEEN & WHITE, Wholesale and retail dealers in Nut, Range, Egg, HARD COALS, AND Third Vein Soft Coal Exclusively, AT LOWEST PRICE. Office and Stables with Thayer, Batters & Co., near Rock Island Depot. TELEPHONE, No. 55. Coal delivered to all parts of the city. FARM FOR SALE. One of the finest and most desirable farms in La Salle Co.; the Clark Farm, 1 1/2 miles south of Ottawa. Apply to M. D. CLARK, or L. N. WATERMAN.

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JUST ARRIVED! As complete a stock of Dry Goods, Notions, Hosiery, Boots and Shoes as there is in Ottawa. Everything in Dress Goods desirable and cheap. Men's Kip Boots, we have the Best. We defy competition. \$3.50. Our F. O. Cass Women's, Misses and Children's Shoes can't be beat; and we invite inspection. Remember we sell more Groceries than any store in Ottawa. Best evidence that we sell cheap. No snide goods; all reliable. MAHER BROS.

New Advertisements.

I AM CLOSING OUT MY ENTIRE STOCK OF FURNITURE, Consisting of Parlor Suits, Bedroom Suits, Casser Bookcases, Camp Chairs, Bedsteads, Mattresses, and a general assortment of Common and Fine Furniture and HOLIDAY GOODS. Now is your chance to secure Bargains, as I have greatly reduced my prices in order to close out my business. Yours respectfully, GEO. P. RUGG, Dec. 3, 1881.

New Advertisements.

SUPERIOR COAL. The Best is the Cheapest. GET THE LOCEY COAL. SOLD ONLY BY JOHN T. BURKE. As Cheap as the Cheapest for Same Quality.

New Advertisements.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. STANDARD BOOKS AT LOW PRICES. We have just opened a large stock of new editions of Standard Works, to which we invite public attention. These books are all this year's editions, bound in the best manner, in cloth extra, black and gold, with head bands and silk markers. We Offer at 70 Cents, Robinson Crusoe, Arabian Nights, Swiss Family Robinson, Scottish Chiefs, Thaddeus of Warsaw, Children of the Abbey, Don Quixote, Vicar of Wakefield, and Paul and Virginia, Pilgrim's Progress, Gulliver's Travels, Baron Munchausen, Gill Blas, Wily Wally, Lockhart's Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, Last Days of Pompeii, Dickens' Church History of England, large type, All of Mayne Reid's Works, Esop's Fables, with more than 50 Illustrations.

New Advertisements.

South Ottawa Taxes. The undersigned, Tax Collector for the Town of South Ottawa, notifies the tax payers of said town that he has received his books from the county clerk, and that the taxes are now ready to be paid. He may be seen at his office, located at the old toll house, at the north end of the Illinois River Bridge. HENRY P. MOYRE, December 31, 1881.

New Advertisements.

Ottawa Fair Grounds FOR SALE. 160 Acres, Eagle Township. House with 14 rooms and furniture; hay barn, stable, machine shop, granary; hot water double cylinder, tenant house, brook house. SIREMAN & ZELMAN, dec 24 1/2.

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