

# LOWELL DOLLAR WEEKLY JOURNAL.

One Dollar a Year.

Three Cents Per Copy.

VOLUME XVI.

LOWELL, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1881.

NUMBER 33.

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**"Make A Vacancy, or I Will."**

During the late administration of Grant there chanced to be a young man in one of the departments, who, like so many others then and now, had entered on that horrible declivity which begins with the gilded tipping saloons and ends—who shall say where? He was a capable clerk, and his sprees and shortcomings were condoned for the sake of the memory of his honored father, Senator —. But the road was sure; and in time, with a discharge in his pocket and a drunkard's record behind him, step by step he passed the downward grade of dissipation, until wife, children and friends cut loose, and the quondam gentleman slept in the parks and lived on charity. He was abandoned by all—all save the angel of mercy hovering near, though unseen. A temperance reform movement claimed him as a trophy, and he began the upward struggle. Wife and children came back; and who believes in a "reformed drunkard?" It was a struggle for years to find bread for the little ones, but he fought bravely, and, disappointing those who looked for his failure, he held on, and even saved others from going over the precipice. President Grant who had known his father, heard of his struggle and sent for him. Congratulating him on his reform, he said: "I want to help you; what can I do?" "I want work," was the reply. "You shall have it. Where would you prefer to go—in new scenes or old?" The young man said: "Send me, sir, where I left a blackened record. It may encourage others if I regain a good name, and I would be more useful in my former position."

The President wrote a note to the secretary of that department and handed it to the young man, who left, but ere long returned with an anxious face. "The secretary sent out word that my application would go on file?" The President, with an iron-clad complexion, said: "You can't put your wife and children on file, can you?" Writing another note and handing it to him, he said: "Give this in person and bring me an answer." Armed with this missive he confronted the awful presence beyond the braze doors and met an impatient refusal.

"What shall I tell the President?" he calmly inquired.

"That there are no vacancies."

When this was delivered at the white house the imperturbable Grant, biting the end of a cigar, seized a red-ink pen and wrote across the face of his former note: "Make a vacancy, or I will."

Yet again did the young man return unsuccessful. The President obtained temporary employment for his friend, taking him in person to another department, and awaited the cabinet meeting the following day. Here the President seemed as quietly imperturbable as a sphinx. As the members left the room the President followed. Secretary — to the door and said: "By the way, Mr. Secretary, who would you recommend for your successor?" The astonished gentleman replied, and passing to another department wrote a hasty resignation and sent it in. He was relieved of his portfolio the following day.

That young man made excellent use of the faith shown in him by this wonderful judge of character, and rose to a position of eminent usefulness and respectability, which he occupies to-day in one of the largest cities in our land. So did the friendless stranger win his place and the honorable secretary lost his, because the warrior chief had traced his course in lurid characters, not with sword tip but with pen, "make a vacancy, or I will," and now as of yore, to say was to do, and the man who "would fight it out on this line," etc., undeviatingly kept his word.

It was at a table d'hote in Europe where Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Americans from the northern States were present, that a gentleman from the South repeatedly set forth the tyranny which the southern States were suffering, and especially denounced the administration of Gen. Grant.

At last, a bluff old Scotchman, grown weary of his vapors, thus addressed him: "You are from the southern states of America?" "Yes."

"And ye had a civil war there?" "Yes."

"And ye were an officer in the southern army?" "Yes, I was colonel of a regiment."

"And ye got licked?" "Well, yes."

"Was anybody shot?" "No."

"Was anybody transported?" "No."

"Well, then, what the devil are ye grumbling about? If we had ye in England we would have hanged a thousand of ye before ye could have appealed to the civil law, and we would have transported other thousands of ye to Australia, where ye would be now picking up stones."

There was a moment's silence, and then the whole company burst into a roar of laughter and applause. The colonel was squelched, and nothing further was heard from him.

Severe cold weather throughout Mexico. Some persons were frozen to death at Pueblo and at Matagoras.

## News Notes.

**Around the World in Seven Days.**

Francis A. Durivage, author and poet is dead in New York, aged 67.

Corn-cobs are used for fuel at Raising City, Nebraska, and sell for 15 cents per 100 pounds.

The receipts for the Bernhardt engagement at Cincinnati for five performances aggregate \$16,000.

The Illinois house of representatives has passed a resolution favoring the bill to place Gen. Grant on the retired list.

There have been hundreds of murders in Kentucky in the last ten years, and not a single white man has been hung for one.

The statistics show that there has been an absolute decrease in pauperism in New York city and state during the past 12 years.

It is reported that the forgeries of John S. Sweezy, of the cotton commission firm of Sweezy & Dart, New York, amount to \$84,000.

Mrs. Mary Thomas has sued Henry Coffey at Peoria, Ill., for breach of promise and received \$25. Mrs. Thomas is 50 years of age, Coffey 19.

A clergyman at Napa, Cal., asked his Sunday-school to expel his daughter because she attended a circus; but all the pupils voted to retain her.

St. Louis brewers are disturbed over a move to introduce in the Missouri legislature a bill to prevent the manufacture of alcoholic liquors in that state.

John Murray, the actor, has been arrested at Fall River for a board bill contracted to the amount of \$100 in 1879, and expanded since, by interest, to \$325.

It is said that pork fed on Cincinnati; whisky is never afflicted with trichinosis. When the parasites get a whiff of the whisky they take pity on the pig and leave.

A fly-wheel in the Russian mills at Niles, Ohio, flew in pieces Thursday at 7 o'clock, killing two men, injuring several others and considerably damaging the mill.

A growing industry in Maryland is the shipment of ivy and swamp brier roots to northern cities, where they are made into pipes, whip and cane handles—dork knobs, etc.

Henry Greenwood of Dummerston, Vt., was killed by Indians while at work in Mexico for the Texas and Rio Grande railroad last summer, and the company has sent Mrs. Greenwood \$10,000.

A movement is on foot in Chicago, which meets with the support of the more respectable saloon-keepers to raise the price of saloon licenses. It is proposed to grade from \$75 to \$250.

They have just laid bare heavy Roman walls on the site of Leadenhall market at London and a thick layer of ashes, which is thought to indicate an extensive fire there in Roman times.

Over 25,000 tourists are reported to have visited the Yosemite valley since its discovery in 1855, and it is estimated that each one of them, on an average, left \$600 in good money in California.

Two pyramids built by a king of the sixth dynasty have been discovered to the north of Memphis. They were buried beneath the sand. The vaults and chambers are covered with inscriptions.

At Honolulu, on the 20th of November, the inhabitants were complaining of the cold—the thermometer being at 60 degrees—and people unable to sleep were forced to get up to search for more covering.

The British consul at Shanghai recently wrote that 23,000 pounds of willow leaves were in course of manipulation at one port alone, to be mixed with tea for shipment, at the ratio of from 10 to 20 per cent.

A Chicago man is willing to wager \$500 that he can make the face of a negro, Chinese or Indian as white as that of the ordinary white person, by chemical means, within a reasonable time and before a public assembly.

Two Bridgeport bootblacks were among the gayest at a fashionable masquerade there recently, but engaging in a fight their masks were torn and their identity revealed, to the intense disgust of the aristocracy present.

Judging from the rate of increase of applications for pensions in the past few years it might almost be supposed that 50,000,000 soldiers fought in the war of 1812, 75,000,000 in the Mexican war, and 100,000,000 in the civil war.

A strange bill just introduced into the Ohio legislature proposes to inflict \$10 fines and 10 days' imprisonment on any landlord or boarding house keeper who does not inform his patrons of the composition of the food they eat.

"Elizabeth" shouted the brakeman as the train glided into the New Jersey station that of that name. "Yaw," responded a mild and pleasant looking German in the corner of the car, "dot his mine sister, but she deand vos on dis car, already."

Some 15 gentlemen from Lewiston, Maine, representing a half million of capital, are in Chicago bound for Arkansas and Texas to look out and bargain for eligible sites for towns and settlements. It is intended to send large colonies from the east to these states and make every arrangement for the success and prosperity of the settlers.

## Michigan Matters.

**Cleanings from Our Exchanges.**

The superintendent of the Jackson water works is named Fountain.

Homer is to have two new brick stores built in the spring, the brick for which are already engaged.

The Coldwater Driving Park Association will hold a spring meeting, and offers \$3,000 in purses.

Bellevue, having been nearly burned up, it has occurred to the citizens to organize a fire company.

Alonzo Haire, a Delhi, Ingham county farmer aged 60 was crushed and instantly killed by a falling tree last Monday.

The annual exhibition of the Soranian society was given in Olivet Wednesday evening, and was the best ever given by that society.

Friday last week, Edward L. Putnam aged 25, of Homer, was killed by a blow from a limb of a falling tree. He left a widow and one child.

The Tecumseh Herald's water-pipe also went on a burst. Our Herald brother promptly tied a ribbon on it and now everything is all right again.

The dam about a mile south of Big Rapids was washed out some days ago, and efforts to repair it have been thwarted by the severe weather.

Webb Green committed suicide by taking laudanum at the National hotel of Owosso last Friday. He was 21 years old and leaves no family.

Horace D. Mallory, of Climax, Kalamazoo County, dropped dead in his doorway at 4 o'clock on Saturday. Heart disease is the supposed cause.

Various state exchanges remark sadly that oysters have gone up. Well, brethren, you should be careful not to eat stale oysters—they are apt to act so.

The Big Rapids Pioneer-Magnet complains that the post-office steps are dangerously slippery. Just so; politicians in various places have found that out.

Hiram Carter, said to be the oldest master mason (53 years) and Knight Templar (50 years) in the state, died at Charlevoix Wednesday last week, aged 81.

Geo. W. Burt was sentenced on Wednesday, at Howell, to 20 years in the State Prison for the murder of Van Eiter, in Livingston County, thirteen years ago.

The testimony against Wm. Addis in the divorce case at Grand Rapids, is overwhelming in its character. There is no question as to the success of Mrs. Addis' suit.

The farmers' institute at Schoolcraft was a great success, largely attended, and the papers and discussions of the best. The hospitality of Schoolcraftians is warmly praised.

A burglar broke into Peaslie's store, at Grand Rapids, Wednesday night, and blew open the safe after much expenditure of time and trouble, but only got a few cents for his job.

Four new saw mills are being built at Muskegon at an aggregate cost of about \$160,000. There will be 32 saw mills in the vicinity next season, which will cut some 600,000,000 feet of lumber.

East Saginaw shipyards have on the stocks or in hand three large schooners, a steam barge, and a tug; Saginaw City a barge, and Bay City a passenger and freight propeller, two steam barges and a tow barge.

Plans for the reconstruction of north hall, Adrian College, lately destroyed by fire, have been prepared, and the executive committee will receive proposals for the work until the 20th instant. A costlier and better equipped edifice is contemplated.

The people of South Pine Creek, Allegan County, are excited over the discovery of a singular well which apparently must have been dug and walled up long before the county was settled. It was covered with a large flat stone, and this again by a foot or more of soil.

A safe in Sears & Holland's mill office at East Saginaw was cracked by burglars this morning and a small quantity of money stolen. The contents were thoroughly searched, but no valuable papers or notes were taken. This is the fourth safe robbery in Saginaw within a month and is the work of professionals, who have so far escaped detection.

It is now 12 days since the Steamer City of Ludington left Milwaukee for Grand Haven. She was lying in the ice off this shore several days, but drifted away with the ice, which has left the harbor. A force of men are sawing a channel through the ridge of ice obstructing the harbor. As soon as they can get through the Depere and Menominee will search for and relieve the Ludington.—[Post and Tribune Feb. 5.]

Grand Rapids papers tell a story that a man named John Engle was aroused by his dog the other night about one o'clock, temperature below zero, and went out in the road where he found a woman with a broken ankle freezing to death. As they neither give the name, age or residence of the woman, nor how she got there, nor what became of her afterward, nor the color and fighting weight of the dog, this story will be rigidly excluded from our Sunday edition.

**After the Battle.**

"The baby has got a new tooth, but the old lady is laid up with a cold in her head and Johnny is down with the measles," remarked a Galveston gentleman to a defeated candidate. "What in thunder do I care?" was the reply of the defeated candidate, scowling furiously. "Well," said the gentleman, slowly, "before election you used to take me aside every time you met me and ask me how my family was coming on, so I thought you would like to know. As I was saying, Johnny is all broken out with the measles and the baby—" "Go to Halifax!" roared the exasperated candidate, producing a police whistle, all of which goes to show that the defeated candidate is quite as independent as the one who is elected.—[Galveston News.]

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