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"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE AND CHARITY FOR ALL."

VOL. I. LOWELL, KENT COUNTY, MICH., MARCH 17, 1894. NO. 38

**Ladies' Needle Toe  
Kid Congress Shoes.**  
The Finest Shoe  
Ever Sold in Lowell.  
The Latest Thing Out. Widths in Stock,  
B, C and D John Kelley Makes Them.  
**GEO. WINEGAR Sells Them.**

**Look After Your Fences!**  
Having Purchased of the Lindendoll Fence Company the Townships of Vergennes, Lowell, Bowne, Keene, Boston, & Campbell, I am Enabled to Furnish my Patrons and All Others with the  
**BEST \$6.00 FENCE MACHINE EVER SOLD IN MICHIGAN.**  
Please Call at my Store and Examine the Superior Merits of this Machine. Respectfully yours.  
Headquarters for General Hardware. **R. B. BOYLAN**

**Spring Goods**  
The Latest And The Best.  
Now is the Time to Place Your Order for a Spring Suit, an Elegant Pair of Pants or a Jaunty Spring Overcoat. Our Spring Styles and Samples and Styles are now in, and we can fit you out better and Cheaper than Ever. This is business.  
**SMITH, the Tailor.**

**A COMPLETE LINE OF FURNITURE**  
—AND—  
**UNDERTAKER'S GOODS**  
—AT—  
**J. B. YEITER'S**  
One Door East of Wisner's Mill.

**PEACH TREES!**  
N. P. HUSTED & Co. Offer for Spring Trade an Extra Fine Stock of the Best Tested Sorts. Also a Full and Complete Line of Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Ornamentals, Etc.  
**N. P. HUSTED CO.,**  
Lowell, Mich.

**A GRAND RE-UNION**  
The Old Settlers Meet and Talk Over Old Times.  
**THE LARGEST ATTENDANCE OF ALL.**  
The Speeches and Music Loudly Applauded  
**A LENGTHY PROGRAM SUCCESSFULLY Carried Out. The Speeches, the Music and Dance.**

The annual meeting of the Old Residents' association last Friday evening was the most largely attended of any in the history of the society. The spacious sitting room was closely packed and the doorways and halls were also occupied, while it is said that at least 200 persons went away, unable to get within ear-shot of the speakers. This difficulty the committee proposes to avoid another year by having the exercises in one hall and the dance in the other. Those who succeeded in getting in, however, were highly entertained.



**PRESIDENT MATHEWSON.**  
President John M. Mathewson called the meeting to order and opened the exercises with remarks as follows:

Pioneers and old settlers: Once more we come together to grasp each other by the hand, and for a short time to enjoy each other's society. This is the fifteenth annual anniversary of this organization, and we feel glad to see before us such a grand manifestation and interest in its welfare. We have lived among you almost fifty years. In that time we have seen many changes; seen this locality transformed from a wilderness to a garden, from a savage life to one of civilization; seen the rude hut of the savage give way to the mansion of the white man. Where then was heard the wild war whoop is now heard the busy hum of machinery. Where then stood giant forests, are now fields of waving grain. My friends, we assisted in the formation of this society, and we have seen its growth and rejoiced at it. We expect it to continue to grow. We do not expect to stay with you more than one hundred and fifty years more, but we expect and hope this society will continue to endure and prosper long after we shall have passed away. And why should it not? One can become a member without money and without price. It only requires a residence in this locality twenty-five years to be eligible to membership, therefore there is no reason why it should not continue to endure and prosper indefinitely. This is the most flattering and interesting meeting we have ever had, and we rejoice at it. The several committees who have had charge of the arrangements, have left no stone unturned to make this an enjoyable occasion. Everything has been done by all (save by the executive officer) to make this meeting a brilliant success and we hope and expect that all who have favored us with their presence will be more than satisfied.

Now, friends, in behalf of the Pioneer Society of the Grand river valley, allow me to bid you welcome and in-

vite you to make yourselves at home with us and share our hospitality. Our program is somewhat lengthy, and we have with us a number of eloquent speakers, therefore I will not weary you with a speech. Again I say to you, one and all, welcome.



**COMMITTEEMAN BLAIN.**  
A quartet composed of Messrs. Reed, Fisher, Gulliford and Chapman then rendered "Grandfather's Garret" which was warmly applauded, as was each of the productions furnished by these excellent singers. Rev. E. H. Shanks invoked the Divine blessing, after which the secretary's report was read. Mr. Hooker reported 231 members last and four added this year. Two members have died since the last meeting. Cash in the treasury \$75.

The president here introduced Toastmaster Hicks who said that Mr. Mathewson had expressed his inability to read Hick's writing, and the toastmaster said the people would probably be surprised to learn that Mr. Mathewson could read at all.



**TOASTMASTER HICKS.**  
Stephen B. Knapp responded to the toast of "Pioneer Roads" and spoke as follows:

It required nerve and push in the pioneer sixty-eight years ago to go into the wilderness of the territory of Michigan, and it requires nerve to stand up before this large audience and deliver a speech, but as I am called upon by our toast master to talk about "Pioneer Roads," I will say that there were none, or nearly none. I may start from the beautiful city of Detroit and say that there were three roads, or turnpikes, as they were called, leading out from Detroit, one called the Detroit and Chicago turnpike, one the Detroit and Enginaw, then built out as far as Pontiac, and one the Detroit and Fort Gratiot. These were passable when frozen up or for a short time in mid-summer. I will start at Detroit river on the Detroit and Saginaw and say that there was but one mud hole from there to Royal Oak, and that was all the way, and in driving over it your wagon would pitch first one way and then the other like a ship at sea, and one had to brace himself to retain his seat. And then in the country the roads or trails were run as best they could,

around cat holes, swamps and marshes, and you frequently had to travel twenty miles to gain twelve or fifteen. When we came to a marsh or swamp that we could not go around we made what was called a Michigan railroad, by cutting timber ten to twelve feet long and laying them so as to make a crossing. Frequently, if we wished to go to a neighbor's or other place we would get our course or bearings and start out across the woods to the place we wished to go. Any one starting out with a team usually took an ax with him to cut away any tree that might have fallen across the track, or to cut a pry to lift a wheel in case he got stuck in a mud hole.



**STEPHEN P. KNAPP.**  
In 1848 I first visited this place. There was no Lowell here then nor a village thought of. My parents lived in Commerce, Oakland county, and I said to mother, "I am going to Grand River to see Harriet," my sister who had married and moved with her husband, Allen Day, to Keene, Ionia county, they being pioneers of that town. I did not go to the depot and wait for the train, as there was no depot in Michigan, nor did I hitch my horse to my buggy, as we had no buggies at that time, but I took my pack on my back and started out on foot, and was three days coming through. I could walk from forty to forty-five miles per day at that time.

In 1847 I brought the first separator into Ionia and Kent counties, from Birmingham, Oakland county, and it took two weeks to make the trip with two teams.  
My time is up.  
Miss Hattie Wilson then rendered "The Last Rose of Summer" in her usually charming manner, after which Editor Geo. A. Potts of Saranac came forward in response to the toast "Pioneer Singing Schools." A brief resume of his response follows:

Pioneer singing schools, what were they? When the singing school was a pioneer in this vicinity, in older settlements it was an established institution, and on the glad morning of creation the morning stars sang together, this being the pioneer of all.  
Music has had a great influence on the emotions and in the worship of mankind from the early dawn of civilization until the present day. It lulls the infant calmly to sleep, it cheers the warrior to battle and inspires him to victory, it brings a solace to the sorrowful and a balm to the weary and afflicted.

An incident was related concerning the early settlement of South Boston. In 1840 the young people formed a series of dancing parties and Miss Elizabeth English, who was a good singer, and Elbridge Williams, who possessed the faculty of whistling, were deputed to furnish the dance music and the two used to meet one evening a week to practice, the meeting being the first meeting for the study of music in the settlement. Later Fidius Stooking became the possessor of a fiddle, and Stooking and the fiddle were in such great demand that at a Fourth of July celebration held in Saranac soon after, the two headed the procession, the inspiring strains of the catgut exciting the admiration of young and old.

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The Lowell Ledger.

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FRANK M. JOHNSON. Entered at Lowell post office as second class matter.

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Job printing in connection at Grand Rapids rates. "Always Prompt," is our motto.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1894.

The House Committee on Election of President and Vice President has taken a popular step in agreeing to recommend an amendment to the Constitution so as to have the United States Senators elected by the people instead of by legislatures.—[Democrat.]

If the United States senate is Democratic, then away with Democracy. Stiff-necked, bull-headed millionaires with never a thought of the wishes of the people whose money they are stealing instead of earning as they might. Congressman Richardson, just tell the next protection Democrat senator you meet that if the Wilson bill passes as drafted up by the senate there won't be enough Democrats in this neck of the woods to shake a stick at. It's hard lines, old fellow, but 'tis true. Don't look for any Democrats here if that measure passes in that shape. There won't be any.

PERSONS occupying the positions of public instructors, whether in the pulpit or on the platform, or with the press, must realize the fact that the conditions of public intelligence have undergone a great change within the last fifty years. More rarely now than formerly do we find men towering grandly above their fellows. Not that individuals are less able than their predecessors but that the masses are better informed than of yore. Years ago the people awaited the coming of the political orator, that they might learn of the ills of the body politic, the remedies needed and how to apply them. This has changed and the average stump-speaker might learn of his auditors, if he were to change places with them. In the last national campaign, observers noticed that whenever a speaker approached a vital subject, that the audience always anticipated his thought before it was uttered, and the remark itself was often drowned in applause, unheard yet understood. The same condition of affairs confronts the religious speakers of today. A gentleman of our acquaintance informs us that when the scripture lesson is read at church, he can almost invariably select the text of the sermon that is to follow, and then anticipate the main features of the discourse. What does this mean? Only that the masses are waking up and overtaking their would-be leaders. How has it come about? Through education and a free, untrammelled press, whose products are scattered broadcast throughout the land, so that whosoever will may learn. The age of bigotry and persecution has almost gone. There is now no Caliph of Omar to burn libraries as did the sanctimonious fool at Alexandria long ago. There are now no more bigot kings to burn bibles and roar the readers, and there is no foreign power religious or otherwise that dares set its foot upon free America. Accused and damned forever be the one that tries it! Read on, think on, good people, and if your leaders go astray, stand not on ceremony, but go quickly and show them the way.

A farm of 80 acres three miles from Lowell 60 acres cleared. Well watered. Party going away and must sell soon. G. H. Foroe.

For apple, pear, plum and cherry trees, etc. call on N. P. Husted and company. Their stock cannot be beaten.

A Grand Re-Union.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1. The pioneer singing school was held in the old log school house, its floor of puncheon, its seats inverted stabs; it was lighted with tallow candles and the only musical instrument was a tuning fork. The teacher was usually a farmer of the neighborhood, who had obtained a smattering of music 'down east'; and yet, with all its simplicity, more good singers were developed than now. The style of music in vogue in those days was described by the speaker, and some of the ludicrous effects of the fugue tune were mentioned and the recollections of one of the early schools were briefly given.

In closing, the following allusion was made: "The memory of those happy voices lingers with me even yet; it is a memory that is hallowed with age, yet is ever pleasant, ever fresh and green. But few of those who sang so sweetly in the days of yore, are singing now on earth. Age and disease have broken the once strong voices of the few that remain, and many have crossed the silent river. But I take pleasure in the thought that I shall again meet them and join with them in singing in 'that land where enjoyment will never grow old, over the river of death.'"



ROBT. HARDY.

Michigan wheat and the Lowell flour mills for bread, Illinois for corn meal and prairie chickens, New Jersey pumpkins for pies, Carolina rice for the queen of puddings, Georgia cotton to keep us warm, and so I might give the products of all our states. Plenty of oats for the horses, corn meal for the cows and oleomargarine for the hogs. I tell you we are a nation of farmers; six-eighths of our people are farmers. If that be true where do we get our statement? Not from the anarchists and bomb throwers that come to our shores to-day. Where did Patrick Henry come from, the man who fired the American heart to strike for liberty and self-government? He came from the farm. Abraham Lincoln, in my opinion the grandest man that ever trod American soil, came from the farm. Where did our noble women come from, the Willards, the Potters, Palmers who stand side by side with the best men in America? Farmers' daughters.

Well, I would say that I am glad to see both old and young so happy here to-night. Long may the old pioneers of Grand river valley live to enjoy these yearly gatherings, and may we go to our homes, pointing one another to the grand old landmarks of pioneer life. Look at the unity and good feeling that is among our farmers north and south to-day. Our sons of the north are going south and marrying southern daughters, and sons of the south are coming north and marrying our girls. No more Stonewall Jacksons coming north with an army, no more General Sherman's going south with the grandest army that ever trod the earth, no more blood to be seen on the cotton bales of America, no more cavalry hoofs treading down the farmers' grain. Glory to God, peace on earth and good will to men. That is the motto for every true patriotic pioneer farmer of America.

When man first came from the hands of his Creator he was a farmer. The first real pioneer farmer that I know anything about was good old Noah, who had a grand idea of a republican form of government or rather perhaps I should say democratic. Any way the old pioneer was not a prohibitionist. Noah was right when he gave to every man a portion of land if cultivated, to be his own possession. So from the farmer lions have descended the pioneer farmers of the world, and wherever their honor and prosperity have been trampled under foot, there you will find the worst forms of government that ever existed. So we find that the foundation of all human progress was in the hands of the farmer, and where his comfort and prosperity have been the chief concern of governments there we find the highest standard of civilization. Why did Egypt and the Roman empire stagger and fall? Because they crushed with a cruel hand the honest tillers of the soil. God created the farmer to begin with, and all down through the ages his loving eye has been upon the tillers of the soil. As the years roll on we find the best blood of all nations coming to our shores, farmers that hated the tyrannical governments of the old world, men that loved freedom and feared not the privations of pioneer life. As we go a little further in the history of our country, we see a band of farmers down at Independence Hall. They say, "God has given us this land and we will form ourselves into a government and we will call it the United States of America, and we will give to every pioneer farmer 160 acres of land if he will clear the forest, and build a cabin for his wife and children and if he will be his possession forever." So in went the ax to the roots of trees, fighting the red coats with one hand, and clearing the forest with the other. Down went the forest, on and on, till you, my brother farmers, have shared in the toils of pioneer life in Iowa and the Kent counties; on and on, till, from the Atlantic to the Pacific we have today, a land of orchards, farms, and farmers' homes. What has been the result of this toil? At this moment ships moving through all our oceans, going into all the harbors known to civilized man, laden with the fruits and grains from the farms of America.



CHAS. J. CHURCH.

CHAS. J. CHURCH & SON. BANKERS.

CHAS. J. CHURCH, CHAS. A. CHURCH. Established at Greenville 1861, Lowell, 1888. LOWELL, MICH.

FOR ALL KINDS OF FOOTWEAR CHEAP GO TO JOHN ROBERTSON.

H. NASH, Dealer in agricultural implements. Galloway Robes, COATS AND MITTENS, For cold weather.

McCARTY'S IS THE PLACE TO Buy Groceries, Produce and Crockery OF ALL SORTS AND KINDS, FOR HE IS THE

FARMER'S FRIEND Pays Cash for everything a Farmer can raise, beg or borrow. Always Ready for Business.

ARE YOU THINKING? OF

Erecting a Monument? IF SO, CALL ON

KISOR & AYERS, Manufacturers of Marble and Granite Cemetery Work.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP AT MODERATE PRICES. Kisor & Ayers, Lowell, Mich.

Extra copies of this issue for sale at the Ledger office.

Joseph Hamilton has returned from New York state where he was called by the death of his mother. It was only a few weeks ago that Mr. Hamilton buried his father.

N. P. Husted and company's peach trees are of the best, hardy, well-tested varieties. It was Barney McCauley instead of Scally who was fined for looking upon the wine last week. Our informant was in error but makes great promises for the future.

J. C. Train then responded to the toast, "The Pioneer Table." He began by describing the Indian table, which preceded the pioneer table, and which it seems was not a table at all but simply a large kettle filled with a stew composed of fish, muskrat, coon, venison, corn an occasional dog, and other dainties. He paid a warm tribute to the honesty and hospitality of the aboriginal inhabitants of the woods hereabouts, and then spoke of pioneer table, which though made simply of rough boards, was more hospitable than the more fashionable and better furnished tables of to-day. He

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.

Before buying your new bicycle look the field over carefully. The superiority of Victor Bicycles was never so fully demonstrated as at present. Our '94 line will bear the most rigid scrutiny, and we challenge comparison.

There's but one best--Victor. OVERMAN WHEEL CO. BOSTON, NEW YORK. PHILADELPHIA, CHICAGO, SAN FRANCISCO. DETROIT, DENVER.



social at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Parole Friday evening March 10. Everyone cordially invited. Chas. McCarty expects to begin extensive improvements on his recently purchased residence about April 1, after which he will occupy the same. The lecture on "Siam" by Rev. D. F. Bradley at the Congregational church has been postponed to Monday evening, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

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Lowell Markets. Wheat, white, \$0.81; Corn, 40; Oats, 30; Beans, 40; Barley, per hundred, 70; Flour, per hundred, 15.00; Pork, per ton, 18.00; Mutton, per ton, 18.00; Cows and Cattle, per ton, 18.00; Butter, 16; Eggs, 35; Potatoes, 35; Beans, 1.10; Pork, 4.25; Cabbage, per ton, 7; Apples, per bushel, 2.00; Onions, 60.

Business Directory. J. HARRISON RICKETT, Dentist, Over Church's bank, Lowell. B. E. BURT, Notary public. Your business solicited. Office in Graham block. S. P. RICKER, Loans, Collections, Real Estate and Insurance, Lowell, Mich. O. C. McDANIEL, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, Office, 46 Bridge street, Lowell, Mich. M. G. GREEN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, Office at Residence, E Bridge street, Lowell, Mich. W. F. BROWN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, Office hours, 10 a. m. to 8 p. m. and 7 to 8 p. m.

FARMERS HOTEL, Lowell, Mich., 67 P. Lane, Proprietor. Rates \$1.00 per day, \$3.50 per week. Good meals and clean beds. MILDRED M. PERRY, Attorney and Counselor at Law, 111 Hall Block, Lowell, Mich. Special attention given to Collections, Conveyancing, and Sale of Real Estate. Has also qualified and been admitted to practice in the 1st tier D. jurisdiction and at the present time is ready to prosecute claims for those who may be entitled to Pen and Bond.

Mains & Mains, Attorneys at Law, Lowell, Mich. We respectfully solicit your business.

LOWELL 'BUS LINE. Calls are collected from the established routes of the Line 50 minutes before D. G. H. & M. trains are due and I will not be responsible for calls not after that time. The bus is timed to leave the Davis House 35 minutes before D. G. H. & M. trains are due and Train's 10 minutes before said trains are due. Notice of 50 minutes must be given if baggage wagon is required. W. V. STROUS, Prop.



Ayer's Sarsaparilla. S. P. SMITH, of Towanda, Pa., whose constitution was completely broken down, is cured by Ayer's Sarsaparilla. He writes: "For eight years, I was, most of the time, a great sufferer from constipation, kidney trouble, and indigestion, so that my constitution seemed to be completely broken down. I was induced to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and took nearly seven bottles, with such excellent results that my stomach, bowels, and kidneys are in perfect condition, and, in all their functions, as regular as clock-work. At the time I began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla, my weight was only 125 pounds; I now can bring of 150 pounds, and was never in so good health. If you could see me before and after using, you would want me for a traveling advertisement. I believe this preparation of Sarsaparilla to be the best in the market to-day."

DON'T FORGET! That we have Everything that is made to Keep your Feet Warm, at Prices that Can't be Beaten for Good Goods.

The Old Reliable, A. J. HOWK & SON.

List of Unclaimed Letters Remaining in the Post Office at Lowell, Mich., week ending March 10, 1894. Ladies--Mrs. J. D. Cole, Mrs. Gertrude Kromer, Miss Alice Meddagh, Miss Annie Murphy. Gents--Mr. Davis, Hon. John Thompson. Persons claiming the above will please call on the undersigned and give date of list, say 'advertised' and give date of list. LEONARD H. HUNT, P. M.

MURPHY IS THE DEALER IN Fresh Cured Meat, Poultry, Etc. "GOOD MEAT, LOW PRICES" IS HIS MOTTO. Highest Market Prices Paid for Stock. HEADQUARTERS FOR School Books and School Supplies. Second Hand School Books Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE--In the Matter of the Estate, Deceased, Mrs. Mary Ann McCarry. Notice is hereby given that I shall sell at Public Auction, on the highest bidder, on Tuesday the 10th day of April, A. D. 1894, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the North front door of the Court House, in the City of Grand Rapids, in the County of Kent, in the State of Michigan, pursuant to License and authority granted to me on the 6th day of December, A. D. 1893, by the Probate Court of Kent County, Michigan, all of the right, title, interest or estate of said deceased, in or to that certain piece or parcel of land, situated and being in the County of Kent, State of Michigan, known and described as follows, to wit: The North-west quarter of the North-west quarter of section twenty nine (29), in Township eight (8), North of Range nine (9), West, being in the Township of Gratian, in said County of Kent. Dated February 9th, A. D. 1894. PATRICK J. SULLIVAN, Administrator.

THOS. R. GRAHAM, LOWELL, MICH. PAINTER & PAPER-HANGER. ALL WORK DONE--Neatly and Cheaply and Satisfaction Warranted. Give Him One Trial and You will try him Again.

L. F. SEVERY, DEALER IN General Hardware, and Peninsular Stoves and Ranges. Furnace Work and General Jobbing. A SPECIALTY. West Main Street, Lowell, Mich.

F. E. LOVETT, House Painter, Paper Hanger, and Decorator. Graining, Glazing and Wall Tinting. Carriage Painting a Specialty. All work guaranteed first class, and prices reasonable. Shop one door east of the Ledger office.

F. F. CRAFT, GENERAL Ditching, Tile and Drainage. Contractor. Orders by mail given prompt attention, and satisfactory work guaranteed. Public patronage respectfully solicited. Lowell, Mich.

Bargains In All Kinds of FOOTWEAR, For Cash at D. E. MURRAY.

LOWELL PLANING MILL, W. J. ROEGER & SON, PROP. DEALERS IN Lumber, Lath, Shingles and Cedar Fence Posts, ECKER & SON, LOWELL.

C. BERGIN, Fine Teas and Coffees, Spices, Sugars and Groceries. LOWELL, MICH. Image of a person with a scale of justice.



# THE LOWELL STATE BANK

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CAPITAL, \$25,000.00.

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A. J. BOWNE, President. DANIEL STRIKER, Vice President. M. C. GRISWOLD, Cashier.

## DIRECTORS,

A. J. BOWNE, R. E. COMBS, DANIEL STRIKER, J. C. GRISWOLD, M. C. GRISWOLD

We Solicit Your Business.

### A Grand Re-Union. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4.



J. C. TRAIN.

closed by saying that the distress and suffering of these latter days might be laid to the fact that our people are more selfish than those of the pioneer days when every man was willing to share his last crust with his neighbor.

The male quartet then sang "Who Built the Ark?" and the only criticism offered on the production was that it was too short. The audience seemed intensely anxious to ascertain who it was that built the ark.

Attorney Charles Wilson, of Saranac, then responded to "The Advance Guard of Civilization," and held the large audience to the finish, while he spoke as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Old Resident's Reunion:

This is my first appearance at your meetings, and I am glad to be with you, and join in the exercises and festivities of the occasion.

It is possible, that heretofore I have been waiting for time to add a few more years to convince me, that I am an Old Resident, and somewhat advanced in age.

We would all—or most of us would undoubtedly—remain in the meridian of life and continue to call ourselves young men and women, were it possible in nature so to do. But in making our progress, we are admonished that time is fleeting, and—ere we wish to acknowledge it, we are forced to admit, that we are on the declivity, and fast approaching the termination of that lease of life, commonly allotted to man.

We are indeed gathered here tonight as old residents of Michigan, and as such, many are known as pioneers. Some of the older settlers are more entitled to this term than others. They came earlier into the wilderness. Others came following on their trail, or diverging into different sections of the country, at different periods of the olden time. All these we may classify together, the old, the young, the middle aged, as pioneers of the frontier life.

Referring to them as the advance guard of civilization, what can I say of them and their day?

In attempting to do justice to this sentiment, I am at a loss for words to adequately express as much as I would in the few moments that have so kindly been given me.

The pioneer of a new country, is much like the pioneer of the army, who goes before, to build bridges and clear the way for the advancing forces. They each brave the dangers, hardships and privations, and go forth—in a measure—for the like purpose of civilizing the country. One by the baser methods of warfare, the other by the more exalted and humane sentiment of "peace on earth and good will to man."

The pioneers of America, who came from the old world—many of them—sought refuge here from oppression and tyranny.

Columbus, the discoverer, who first made known and cleared the way for our civilization, William Penn, and his religious brethren, who founded Philadelphia, imbued as they were with the spirit of religious and civil liberty, and the pilgrim fathers

who landed upon Plymouth Rock, and began their historic achievements in reclaiming the country from the savage state, with many others were the advance guards of civilization upon American soil, and are entitled to all the praise that we of this generation are qualified to bestow.

You here to night, with others who are absent, were principally descendants of those early pilgrims, and you migrated hither with equal, if not stronger, sentiments of civil and religious freedom. The germ of liberty and justice had been growing for many years. The old settlers brought it with them into this new country, they learned to love it as they did the hearth-stones of their family firesides. They inculcated it into the minds and hearts of their children, made it the rule and guide of their progress, and laid the foundations of future greatness, for themselves and posterity.

Truly did they perform well their part in planting the Liberty Tree in the forests of Michigan. They came from the East, bidding farewell to old homes and associations, with heavy, but stout and ambitious hearts. They came, as the "star of the Empire" was taking its western course," settling here and there in rough and isolated huts to subdue the wilderness, and prepare it for the advancement of civil life. Little did they dream that in so short a space all the nations of the earth by their representatives, with specimens of their progress in the arts and sciences, would be gathered together so near the place of their humble habitations, where the praise and glory of Columbus, and the advancement of civilization would be heralded in prose, song and exhibition, as was so recently and magnificently accomplished at the world's fair in the proud city of Chicago. Little did these old settlers realize that the work they engaged in would form such an important factor in the development of the country, and the vast improvements in civilization we now behold about us.



E. K. NASH.

In looking backward upon that portion of this eventful history within my memory, I first mark the spot where my father's emigrant wagon forded the river at Saranac, and am reminded of the fright I experienced at the impending danger, and I call up the recollection that soon after this event he became engaged in business as tavern-keeper in a dwelling house on the corners, in connection with the running of a saw-mill purchased of that most worthy and respected pioneer, the late Cyprian Hooker. And I do not forget that in that tavern your humble servant was utilized as dish-washer, and on washing days was engineer of the pounding barrel, and that he continued in such industry until he was promoted to the position of cabin boy on the steamboats plying between Grand Rapids and Lyons, first on the old "Porter" and then on the "Nawbeck" under chief Cooks, Billy Matice and Joe Bain.

In my retrospection I remember the noble red-men of the forest who had their hunting and fishing grounds upon the banks of our rivers and lakes, and I recall their extensive traffic in baskets and venison in exchange for fire-water and pork.

I am also reminded of the husking, the quilting, the paring and honing bees, the fiddling and dancing, the

fun, frolic and amusements, and that in those gleeful times the "one string" country fiddler, assisted by some sweet whistler in their dulcet notes, performed an important part in emergencies, and particularly when it was not practicable to procure the more modern and soul inspiring music of "Fid" Stocking, "Uncle Chappy," Clafin, Robinson, Howe, Stowe and Chapman.

In the advancement of time, I also behold the approach of the railroad and the departure of the old Indians the Cob-moo-sas, the Was-saga-sikas and others, with their sq laws and papooses, and the disappearance of many of the usages and landmarks of former days. In the progress of civilization the changes have been many and wonderful:

The old treading mill has ceased to grind, The flail no longer threshes; The sickle, scythe and cradle are little used, And the trundle bed has gone to ashes.

The old spinning wheel has lost its head, The dinner horn is up the spout, The pounding barrel laid by its pounder, And the old tallow candle has flickered out.

In their places have come to us, more useful implements of industry, and more convenient articles for our comfort and repose.

I must say to you, however, that progress in civilization does not bring with it the most happiness in life. The life of the early settlers, while they braved the elements and bore the privations of their pilgrimage, nevertheless, I think, was blessed with greater happiness than the life of those who possess the full measure of this advanced age. The old pioneer enjoyed himself much more in working around his humble cabin, chopping the forest or breaking the land and in his rude way, providing shelter, food and protection for his family, than the aristocrat or millionaire of to-day, under his heavy burden of luxury and great wealth. The father felt much better over the prospects of his son, who had learned to labor in honest toil for his daily bread than the father to-day whose son has no necessity for labor. The mother, whose daughter learned to cook, knit and spin, felt as much happiness in thus preparing her for her sphere in life as the mother now, who permits not her daughter to soil her delicate hands with common labor.

The pioneer boys had to yell, sing and whistle, many times under trying circumstances. It is true they did not indulge in the advanced music of to-day, and when they sang and whistled they had to whistle and sing such tunes as "Old Dan Tucker," "Hi Biddy Martin," "Hey, Jim along Joe" and "Old Zip Coon," while the so-called "kids" of to-day are permitted to waltz up and down the avenues, with their pompadours in front of their hats, whistling or singing, in extraordinary similitude, such charming melodies as "After the Ball Is Over." But I apprehend the pioneer boy was just as happy in his singing and whistling as it is possible for boys to be. The fair maiden of the pioneer life, with her freshness of health and complexion, dressed in her home spun gown and gingham apron, with her hair scalloped, or in ringlets, was as much an object of beauty as the equally beautiful damsel of to-day in her silks, satins and modern bangs.

'Tis not the beautiful case the diamond wears, that makes it brilliant.

Now in conclusion, my friends: In reviewing the recollections of old associations and recalling our old acquaintances, we discover that many of the old guard have been dropping out of the ranks, and are still passing away; and as they depart from us we see and greet them no more. New blood and new enterprises continue to come upon the stage of action, and to vie with each other in the onward march of progress.



CYPRIAN HOOKER.

Old settlers: Grand and glorious have been the improvements along life's journey. Let us keep up with the procession as long as we may. As veterans we are entitled to our old ways and notions, and to follow them if we wish. But progress is the great work of human laborers. Many, many are the evils that grow up to accom-

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any the good. Let us discard the evils, accept the good; and live long to enjoy the triumphs of the early days. May we have many re-unions of the old residents, and be able to join in the chorus of "The Old Oaken Bucket," "Home Sweet Home" and "Auld Lang Syne."

Miss Lela Farlin then furnished a piano solo, "The Gates Ajar," with variations, which was pleasing and well received, and was followed by the quartet in "My Old Ox Team."

This concluded the program, and officers were elected as follows: President, John M. Mathewson; Secretary, J. S. Hooker; Treasurer, C. G. Stone. The former vice presidents hold over.

After singing a stanza of "Auld Lang Syne" the company broke up. About 200 partook of the excellent supper spread by Mr. and Mrs. Train, and 150 numbers were sold for the dance, music for which was furnished by L. J. Robinson, O. Clafin, Geo. Kellogg and J. Matern. They did so well, that "After the Ball was Over" floor manager I. B. Malcolm proposed

three cheers for the band and presented each member with a silver dollar.

We present herewith, a few familiar faces, with an apology to the ladies and others for omitting to represent them. We hope to present others in our report of the next meeting, which the LEDGER earnestly hopes that all present at this meeting, will live to attend.

Extra copies of this issue for sale at the LEDGER office.

Geo. A. Potts and wife, Richard Vosper, S. M. Crawford and C. L. Wilson, attended the annual meeting of the Old Settler's association. The first two remained over Saturday and Sunday the guests of S. P. Hicks and wife. The Ledger acknowledges a pleasant call from brother Potts.

**READ IT, NEED IT, YOU NEED IT.**  
And don't forget that N. B. Blain will give you 10 cents for every dollar that you pay him for dry goods before April 1.

A good pair of horses, 7 years old, weight 1300 pounds each, for sale cheap. Inquire of J. W. Walker.

All persons indebted to me will please call and make immediate settlement.  
D. G. Look.