

Local Brevities.

COURT HOUSE TO-MORROW.
-Winter ends to-day; or the calendar is out in its reckoning.
-The Chelsea Herald scolds these "Brevities" as "little too freely."

Another paper is to be published later in this county; this time in Saline.

At this writing—Thursday afternoon—February promises to go like a lion.

The Rev. G. L. FOSTER is to preach in the Presbyterian church on Sunday next.

MACDONALD, CHAPIN and GODDARD are the three lecturers yet coming in the S. L. A. course.

100 reserved seats were sold for the PATTISON concert within an hour on Tuesday morning.

PATTISON has taken up the lease of the Ypsilanti Commercial—and resumed sole control of that journal.

County Treasurer FARBREID is reported recovering, and is expected to be on duty on Monday next.

In the Circuit Court, on Monday, the appointment of JOHN J. ROSSIGNOL to be Deputy Clerk was ratified and confirmed.

The creditors of HENRY GOODYEAR are referred to the Assignee's Notice in another column. There is a dividend ahead.

FRAY & STILL is the name of a new firm engaged in general trade at Whitmore Lake.

We recommend them to the ARGUS readers. We thought them to be celebrated heretofore, greater than he—the "second Washington"—now occupies the White House.

Prof. D'OOGE gave an address or discourse before the Christian Association of the University on Sunday evening last, in the M. E. church.

Did the lady jurors assist actively at the recent execution of Physics, and then down after exercises at Nettie's? That's the question.

The Turn Verein gave a masked ball at Hangsterfer's Hall last evening. The programme was comical; or the getter up of it was mistaken.

When the other session experienced four colder or more disagreeable days than Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday last we don't wish to emigrate there.

M. W. REYNOLDS, a graduate of the University and well known in this State, was one of "Subsidiary" agents in the recent Kansas Scamatorial contest.

At the Republican County Convention held on Monday last GEO. S. WHEELER was nominated for County Superintendent of Schools. He is now serving out his second term.

There was quite a fall of snow Wednesday night, but so drifted as not to make much sleighing. When the weather moderates look out for more snow, and "a wax" of sleighing in March.

A Co-operative Life Insurance company has been organized at Manchester, with JOHN D. VAN DYKE, President; A. E. HEWETT, Secretary; and J. J. ROSSIGNOL as one of the Trustees.

Messrs. T. H. JOHNSON, C. H. JAMESON, H. L. PATTERSON and C. L. NATE have been elected editors of the University Chronicle, vice Messrs. ROBINSON, WILLIAMS, REBELE and SHERRILL, whose terms of service have expired.

The Rev. HENRY WARD BENDISSEN's portrait is displayed in all the show-windows of town, manufactured in between those of PATTI and MARIO. To such "tricks of the trade" his temporary owners find it necessary to resort to extort that \$1.50 admission fee.

We congratulate the Chronicle on its severe straits upon the recent burning of physics powder. It reports it not a terrible liar the performance both on the campus and at Prof. BRETHER'S were exceedingly disgraceful. We are glad to see the Chronicle denounce such doings.

Regular exercises at the University were suspended yesterday, it being the day for prayer for colleges. A prayer meeting was held in the new chapel immediately after morning exercises, and Dr. COCKER preached in the same room at 3 o'clock P. M.

The Chronicle is in doubt whether the successor to Prof. TYLER is "grandson, grand nephew, or great-grandson" of W. W. WOODRUFF. LESTER. As the distinguished author named in rendering a verdict against the "grandson" suggestion.

DANIEL B. DODGE, of Ypsilanti, who has lived in that city since 1850 and was one of its best known citizens, died on the 18th inst., aged 65 years. In former years Mr. DODGE was a member of the Democratic party. He filled and well-filled many offices, and for several years was Deputy Collector of the Port of Detroit under MICHAEL SHUMAKER.

The lecture of Mr. E. L. GONKES, of the Nation, in the S. L. A. course, was largely attended on Friday evening last. The lecture was well written, and ably discussed the subject, "The Nobility of Morals," but the very poor voice and delivery of the lecturer made it impossible for the much larger portion of the audience to become interested. We were sorry to notice some efforts at rudeness and insult—an evidence that some present were unable to appreciate worth—Empty declamation is the food of such.

A postscript to a recent business letter from Prof. TYLER says: "I observe that in your last paper you speak of 'the late Prof. TYLER.' Escorted to heaven? Allow me to assure you that the eloquent words of D. WISNER, that 'I still live.' 'Equivalent to going to heaven'; that's good; but it had'n't struck us in that light. 'Other place might come nearer being an equivalent. However, we are pleased to know that the 'late' professor in the University 'still lives,' and 'long may he wave.'

At the Republican State Convention held at Lansing, on Wednesday, Judge CHRISTIANITY, of the Supreme Court, was nominated for re-election. The Regents of the University there was a lively fight. The candidates were "Wagon," on the fifth ballot Hon. E. C. WAYNE, of Wayne, received 103 of the 185 votes, and that nomination was made unanimous. After four more ballots ANDREW J. CLIMB, of St. Joseph County, a member of the House, was nominated. Prof. BEAL, of the Agricultural College, and Dr. THOMAS, of the Normal School, being his principal competitors. We don't know anything about Mr. CLIMB. His god-father, with articles from the Argus, said that the candidate he presented was, as he had heard, the graduate of a law mill. Be that as it might, he was a man of sound knowledge and discrimination, one who could control weighty interests in behalf of the University; one whom the members of the last as well as the present Legislature know to be qualified in every respect.

Some popular favorites THE LEONARDS are announced for one of their inevitable performances at the Opera House on Tuesday evening next. The programme consists of "A day after the Wedding," the "New Legend Sketches," and Lingard's new Comic Opera. Concerning a recent performance of this company in Detroit, the Free Press says:

Lingard company appeared last evening in Wm. H. Lingard's new comedy, "A Hero's Dream." The piece is in reality a happy one, but the compiler has been very happy in his selection of it. It is exceedingly funny. The large audience was kept in continual good humor during the entire progress of the play. The acting was generally good, and the play of Alice Manning Lingard as "Lady Malde," Owen as "Capt. Page," Mr. N. F. Owen as "Grace De Plat," and J. A. Arnold as "The Page."

At the close of the first act, Mr. F. Arnold, after the play, Mr. Lingard gave a number of his "legendary" character sketches, in closing with a "picture" character sketches. Greely seated at a table reading a newspaper, and some of Lingard's most remarkable efforts, as is as perfect a portrait of the great actor as it is possible to imagine.

Water-Works.

EDITOR OF ARGUS:
I have just learned that the Citizens' Committee on water supply, at a recent meeting, passed a resolution endorsing the Holly system, and proposing to use the water at the Bunker dam below the city, filtering (treating) the water through a gravel bed by digging well near the bank of the river and pumping therefrom, throwing the water directly upon the streets for use. Without offering any comments upon the Holly system, so-called, I desire to make a few suggestions on the subject of filtration. I do so at the risk of being so scientific as to be uninteresting to some of the gentlemen who profess to have no faith in common or scientific skill. What then is the object and what is accomplished by filtration? Nearly all forms of natural water contain certain impurities; some held in solution, some in suspension; some organic and some inorganic. Clay, sand, and such like particles are held in suspension and will be separated by straining; while the dissolved lime, magnesia, and organic matter generally are held in solution, and will not be separated by straining or filtration unless certain conditions are observed. It is not known by all modern authors that the presence or absence of dissolved organic matter is the greatest desideratum in the selection of water for domestic purposes.

Watts, in his recent very exhaustive work on Chemistry, remarks as follows: "The presence of dissolved organic substance in water has become a much greater influence in determining its fitness for domestic purposes than either the amount or nature of the saline contents of ordinary fresh water. This is especially the case as regards the water of wells or rivers so situated that the drainage or sewage of towns passes into them. When this takes place to any considerable extent, the natural process of purification of river water, consisting in the oxidation and destruction of the organic substance, is not sufficient to render the water so pure as to be fit for domestic use near the places where the sewage of large populations, or the drainage of factories is discharged into it." Murratt in his large work on Chemistry remarks: "All rivers and well waters contain more or less organic matter, which is acknowledged to be the predisposing cause of disease. The separation of these impurities is a problem of high scientific interest, and one that has engaged the attention of all the eminent chemists of the day." It is apparent, then, that the object of filtration is the destruction of the organic matter, by a process of oxidation, accomplished only through contact with atmospheric air. A gravel bed, like the one at the Holly works in Jackson, constantly immersed in the water, gives no such contact, and consequently cannot purify water of organic matter. In Miller's Chemistry will be found the following: "Running water is, however, endowed with a self-purifying power of the highest importance; the continual exposure of fresh water to the atmosphere promotes the oxidation of the organic matter, and if the stream is unpolluted by the influx of the sewage of a large town, this process is generally adequate to preserve it in a wholesome state." By filtration "weeds, fish spawn, leaves, and finely divided silt or mud, are removed; but vegetable coloring matter in solution, salts and other bodies, which are dissolved, cannot be removed by such filter." We see the same principle illustrated, quite often, in the common-house filter—Keep it constantly filled with water, without access of the charcoal and gravel to the air, and it will cease to oxidize the organic matter or purify. There is a form of cistern filter placed in the bottom of the cistern; any person having the misfortune to use this filter for a few weeks or months will appreciate the importance of air contact and oxidation. What gave such a nice charm to the water of the "old cistern back at that hung in the well," but the purifying influence of the air in constant contact with the water? What renders the water of those wells so pure (as often to be unfit for use) in which pumps are used but the want of air and oxidation?

At the light then of common sense, common experience, and scientific truth, it is wise to take the water from the "Bunker Dam" after it has received all the silt derived from the drainage of the city and throw it directly upon the streets with any expectation that it will be purified by percolation through gravel? or would it not be better to go above the city, pump the water into a clean, pure reservoir, and use it as needed any filtering let it be naturally or artificially, process, viz. exposure to the air and oxidation?

Let it be remembered that we are building works for future generations, and that if we prosper as a city large manufacturing establishments must spring up that will greatly pollute the water of the Huron below the city, and thus greatly magnify the existing evil.

S. H. DODGESS.

Court House Election.

By order of the Common Council Mayor DODGESS has called an election to be held to-morrow, at the Court House, to vote upon a proposition to raise by bond \$33,000 in aid of a new Court House. A special act of the Legislature has been passed authorizing such appropriation and loan. The conditions we have already given, the permanent use and control of a room for a Council and Police Court room, and also of one for a Recorder and Treasurer's office, with vaults adjoining. The bonds are to be made payable, \$3,000 on the first day of February, 1875, and \$3,000 each year thereafter until paid, interest of course on the outstanding principal to be paid with each installment. These conditions are laid before the city and county, and we hope that the loan may be carried. Remember—to-morrow.

At a special meeting of the Common Council held on Saturday evening last an ordinance was introduced chartering a company with a capital of \$100,000, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating Water-Works: the city contracting to pay \$100 per year for each of 65 public or fire hydrants, and the same rate for any larger number; reserving the control of water rates or taxes; and also the right to purchase the works at any time. We expected to lay the proposed ordinance in full before our readers to-day, but the promised copy has not been furnished us. The Argus readers will see that the ordinance favors the construction of Water-Works by a company, and that is the most economical for the city. But we will not discuss the subject now.

We give place in another column to a communication from Dr. DODGESS touching the propriety of taking water to supply the city from below rather than above. His reasons against the lower source of supply seem to us convincing, and certainly agree with the position we have heretofore taken in these columns.

We also insert a call for a "Citizens' Meeting," made by the Water-Works Committee appointed some time ago. If Dr. DODGESS is correct in intimating and we think he is—that the committee will resort in favor of Holly works at the so-called "Bunker dam," below the city, this should be at the Court House on the evening named, March 7th, and put a very flat and heavy foot on it.

The Aldine for March is on our table, richly freighted in illustrations. These are: After the Storm, a full-page sea-coast scene, by Jules Tavernier, vivid and thrilling; From Ghent to Aix, by J. D. Smille, calling to mind Browning's poem by the same name; The Widow of Wines, the children of Lebanon—an American idyll, The Recent Star-Shower and Star-Shower generally, by Victor Hugo, Two Sons—a novel by the author of Patty, The True Story of the Juggernaut, and Along the Mazes of the Quiet Vale, two admirably contrasting landscapes, by Jules Tavernier; White Birchings of the Saranac, full page, by John Howe; Sitting for a Portrait, and Myself, by C. Dawson Shaw, with articles pertinent to or descriptive of the several pictures. The Aldine for March is a very fine portrait of Bret Harjo, and a table of contents varied, entertaining and instructive. Among them are: The Issues Raised by the Protestants of France, The Disadvantages of Living in a small Community, The Two Marys, by Mrs. J. C. H. Shaw, The Widow of Wines, The Children of Lebanon—an American Idyll, The Recent Star-Shower and Star-Shower generally, by Victor Hugo, Two Sons—a novel by the author of Patty, The True Story of the Juggernaut, and Along the Mazes of the Quiet Vale, two admirably contrasting landscapes, by Jules Tavernier; White Birchings of the Saranac, full page, by John Howe; Sitting for a Portrait, and Myself, by C. Dawson Shaw, with articles pertinent to or descriptive of the several pictures. The Aldine for March is a very fine portrait of Bret Harjo, and a table of contents varied, entertaining and instructive. Among them are: The Issues Raised by the Protestants of France, The Disadvantages of Living in a small Community, The Two Marys, by Mrs. J. C. H. Shaw, The Widow of Wines, The Children of Lebanon—an American Idyll, The Recent Star-Shower and Star-Shower generally, by Victor Hugo, Two Sons—a novel by the author of Patty, The True Story of the Juggernaut, and Along the Mazes of the Quiet Vale, two admirably contrasting landscapes, by Jules Tavernier; White Birchings of the Saranac, full page, by John Howe; Sitting for a Portrait, and Myself, by C. Dawson Shaw, with articles pertinent to or descriptive of the several pictures.

The Catholic World for March is the Religion of the Middle Ages, by the Rev. Fr. J. M. G. S. The Widow of Wines, The Children of Lebanon—an American Idyll, The Recent Star-Shower and Star-Shower generally, by Victor Hugo, Two Sons—a novel by the author of Patty, The True Story of the Juggernaut, and Along the Mazes of the Quiet Vale, two admirably contrasting landscapes, by Jules Tavernier; White Birchings of the Saranac, full page, by John Howe; Sitting for a Portrait, and Myself, by C. Dawson Shaw, with articles pertinent to or descriptive of the several pictures. The Aldine for March is a very fine portrait of Bret Harjo, and a table of contents varied, entertaining and instructive. Among them are: The Issues Raised by the Protestants of France, The Disadvantages of Living in a small Community, The Two Marys, by Mrs. J. C. H. Shaw, The Widow of Wines, The Children of Lebanon—an American Idyll, The Recent Star-Shower and Star-Shower generally, by Victor Hugo, Two Sons—a novel by the author of Patty, The True Story of the Juggernaut, and Along the Mazes of the Quiet Vale, two admirably contrasting landscapes, by Jules Tavernier; White Birchings of the Saranac, full page, by John Howe; Sitting for a Portrait, and Myself, by C. Dawson Shaw, with articles pertinent to or descriptive of the several pictures.

THE STRAUBER concert, advertised in another column for next Monday evening, March 3d, offers to the citizens of our city and vicinity a rare musical treat. Mlle. PATTI, the well-known prima donna, needs no introduction to the music-loving of our readers. Whether in concert or in solo she is equally and always popular, and with her magnificent voice captivates her hearers as if by magic. Miss ANNE LOUISE CARBY, designated in the programme as "the favorite American contralto," well deserves the title—She made the concert tour with NIELSON and her clear voice, perfect enunciation, and winning smile, gave her a fame but little below that won by the star of the troupe. The Tenor Sir MARIO is always superb. The other members of the troupe are deservedly popular artists, and the combination promises such an evening's entertainment as is seldom offered to our citizens. The concert is to be given at the Opera House, at eight o'clock P. M. Reserved seat tickets are now on sale at Gillette & Fraser's, price \$2.

We take pleasure in publishing the following criticism from the New York Tablet of the first appearance of this troupe at Steiny Hall, New York, Sept. 16th: "It is safe to say that the most brilliant musical season which New York has yet known—was given by this troupe of thirty-three years first musical magnitude may be considered phantasmal—opened at Steiny Hall, on the 16th inst., with the initial concert of the Patti-Mario troupe. The series of concerts in this city consisted of three evenings and one matinee. The names which give name and fame to the troupe belong to a pair of artists, each in their way unrivaled, and each with a reputation which it is not possible to overstate. The vocalists of the troupe of the last generation may have the talent entrusted to Mario, when sixteen years ago that prince of tenors exercised over a New York audience the magic spell of a voice more sweetly than any other of his age. A New York generation have doubtless followed in the press the records of the sterling success which has continued to flatter the great and genial tenor, down to the day when, hardly two months since, he bid farewell to a regretful London public. It was thought then that the Lyric stage had lost one of its brightest lights, but, happily, for the tempted to recross the ocean, Mario has had more than enough of the laurels of a New York audience. The voice which for thirty-three years has delighted Europe still preserves that dulcet softness which no tenor has ever surpassed; and the perfect command of mastery of every style of music, which also distinguished him as still preserved, Mario, ripe in age and in honors, is still the first of his kind. 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