

BLOOMINGTON PROGRESS.

WILLIAM A. GAGE, Editor and Proprietor.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1869.

FOR THE PROGRESS.
Some of the Ways and Means
of Improving a Town.
NO. III.

In the two preceding articles on this subject, some of the means of improving the country, were considered, whereby as a consequence, a Town might be improved. In this article it is proposed to consider some of the agencies the Town may employ for its improvement, irrespective of the country.

First in order of time, and perhaps of importance, among these agencies is,

Labor.

This has been a means of prosperity since the day God said "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." In the light of this fact, it would seem like proving an axiom to argue in behalf of Labor, but in the light of shoddy aristocracy, ragged idleness and the labor-aversion sentiment of the time, it seems appropriate to say a word in its behalf.

The effectiveness of labor is best presented by an illustration. Suppose ten men unite in business,

forming a firm, or corporation, all having skill, industry, good heads and good health. Under reasonable circumstances, success is assured. The first year each man clears above all expenses, one-fifth of his estimated salary—consequently the firm clears the same. But next year two of these men, one-fifth of the number, refuse to work, consequently nothing is made. The third year another member joins the list of idlers—the income is less than expenses, and the firm breaks.

This firm represents community whether in a town, city or State. When all labor, prosperity follows; when only a part labor, prosperity is checked—and when the idlers become numerous, want ensues. The drones eat the honey of the "working bees." Idleness feeds on industry. The highest prosperity demands that all should work.

But, says a sharper, let these idlers engage in speculation.

Speculation is one of the financial evils of our times. Too many engage in it for their own good, or for the good of the country at large. Speculation does not create wealth, it only changes its relation.

Let a speculator buy all the grain in Lear Blossom township, and have it hauled and stored in a ware house in Bloomington, and there will not as a consequence of this act, be a single bushel more grain in Monroe county, than there was before said speculator commenced operations. He has now created, i. e., raised a grain of corn, only changed its relation—passed it from the possession of farmers A. B. and C. to himself. Let a whole community go to speculating, and we would soon see the result. Somebody must produce, or we all starve, and the larger the number of producers, the better, after fully supplying the channels of trade i. e., merchandise and the professions. These departments, merchandise and the professions, should not be clogged with a large surpluse, thus superinducing what must not for delicacy's sake be called idleness, but may more elegantly be called genteel leisure, wherein the parties are, Micawber-like, "waiting for something to turn up."

That young men who have dreams of speculation, and for whom this portion of our article is intended, may see this subject in its clearer aspect, I turn another side of it to view.

Suppose the above named firm of ten had all quit work, and gone to speculating off one another, how much would the aggregate wealth of all have increased? If one gained a hundred dollars, some one lost a hundred, and at the end of a day, a week, or a month, the aggregate wealth of all would not be increased a dollar. The two farmers boys who traded jack knives all day, illustrate this principle.

They commenced in the morning with two jack knives and twenty coppers between them; they traded over one hundred times, giving and receiving both each time, and when they closed at night, they made an invoice of their stock, and found that it consisted of two jack knives and twenty coppers—just what they had in the morning—no more, no less.

Young men, settle this principle in your political economy, and in your practical theories, that if you speculate off a community, you will not increase the wealth of that community. Therefore if we wish to increase the wealth or prosperity of a community, or a Town, we must fall back on the old fashioned agency labor; labor of some kind, hand, head, heart, or all.

It would be interesting to speak of the relative merits and profitability of different kinds of labor, but this would lead us into a broad discussion. I therefore hasten to close this article with a practical suggestion or two.

An observer of the changes in human affairs has discovered that Robert Toombs, instead of calling the roll of his slaves at the base of Bunker Hill Monument, as he boasted he would do, now weekly contents himself with receiving his mail enclosures from the hand of a colored Postmaster, at Macon.

There are idle men in every community, who would gladly work if they could find work. Having no capital, they are dependent upon others. It therefore becomes an important question with every one desiring the prosperity of his community or Town to know what can be done to convert those wasted energies into valuable products.

One of the effective means to this end, is Manufactury.

These persons cannot, as a rule, work in the professions, and they are not needed in merchandise, but they can work in manufacturing, if they are demanded. Capitalists have it in their power to create this demand.

2. Applying the above principle here at home, it occurs to me that our place being an inland town, and shut off from commerce, we ought, very earnestly to consider the subject of manufacturing. And, as I see the facts, it seems that we are in a most favorable condition to engage at once and successfully, in the manufacture of Agricultural Implements.

Our almost unequalled oak forests, are a rich capital to begin with. Second, we are within 110 miles of the prairies of Illinois, via Mitchell and Vincennes, Chicago, which largely supplies this region, ships the manufactured article over 200 miles, and the timber out of which it is made, from Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Michigan. Further, she must pay her hands an excess in wages, equal, at least, to the difference between the rent of a little home in Bloomington, and the same in Chicago. Three points, at least, are in our favor, as compared with Chicago. Is not this matter worthy of consideration, as a means of prosperity to our town?

A manufacture and sale to the amount of \$50,000 per annum, would perceptibly increase the commercial prosperity of our place. If, in addition to this, it should give employment to unemployed men, thus blessing them, and converting wasted energies into marketable products, so much the more commendable the enterprise. My space does not permit the elaboration of this thought; therefore, it is left with a mere mention, with the earnest hope that it may receive the attention of our business men who have spare capital.

Immediately connected with this, and promotive of the same, is our contemplated Railroad to the iron regions. But the importance of this having recently been presented to the community, it is omitted here.

"It is enough to say that railroads aid manufactures, and manufactures help railroads, and both improve a town. Let us, therefore, do what we can for each.

G.

Report on Condition of Poor Asylum.

State of Indiana, Monroe County.

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

We the undersigned Committee, appointed at the March term of Commissioners Court, to carefully examine the Poor Asylum, condition of its inmates, &c, beg leave to make the following report:

1st. The House is in good repair, clean, and kept in an orderly, systematic manner.

2d. The kind and quantity of Provisions, are good and wholesome, and well prepared.

3d. As regards the clothing of the inmates, as shown by their appearance, we judge it to be sufficient and comfortable, and their treatment to be just and humane.

Respectfully submitted,
PLEASANT FOSSETT,
JOHN T. ELLER,
GILBERT K. FERRY.

June 9, 1869.

DISCOURSE OF GENERAL JEFF. C. DAVIS.—Says a special Washington dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette: "General Jeff. C. Davis is soon to be relieved from command of troops in Alaska. One of the California newspapers, some weeks ago, printed two or three articles that were widely copied in the East, in which it was charged and shown by specifications, that a good deal of lawlessness exists among soldiers up there, that outrages of an indecent character have been perpetrated upon a number of women, that some of the officers are greatly addicted to drunkenness, and that others are openly living with abandoned women as mistresses. Official reports show also that Indians and natives have been abused and maltreated in many ways, and in a word, that there is a deplorable lack of discipline among that portion of our troops. The President has made inquiry into the matter and finds that the newspapers have by no means, told the worst of the truth. An officer more efficient than General Davis has proved in this field, will be sent to take his place.

The editor of the *Democrat*, Davenport, Iowa, endorses Hoofland's German Bitters, in the columns of his paper, as follows:

HOOFLAND'S BITTERS.—In another column will be found the advertisement of this sterling remedy. To it, the writer of this notice owes his health. Having once been completely prostrated by diseases contracted in campaigns in Louisiana and Mississippi, we were unable to regain our health by following regular remedies, but were cured by a few bottles of this medicine.

It is the greatest known Tonic, and is entirely free from all Alcoholic admixture. Hoofland's German Tonic is a combination of all the ingredients of the Bitters, with pure Santa Cruz Rum, orange, anise, &c., making a preparation of rare medical value. It is used in cases where some Alcoholic stimulus is necessary. Principal Office, 631 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIANS.—The Thirty-ninth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, closed its session at Murfreesboro, Tenn., a few weeks since, after a harmonious session of eight or nine days.

There were near two hundred delegates present, representing the church in the various States, North and South. Rev. S. T. Anderson, D. D., of Lebanon, Ohio, was the moderator; John Frizzell, of Nashville, Tennessee, principal clerk, and Rev. J. B. Green, of Kentucky, assistant. This large and influential body of Christians, have never divided upon the political questions of the day. They ignore political animosities. They have one hundred and twenty-six synods, twelve hundred ministers, and one hundred and thirty thousand members. Their next assembly will meet in Warrensburg, Missouri, in three years hence.

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