

## SCHWATKA IN MEXICO.

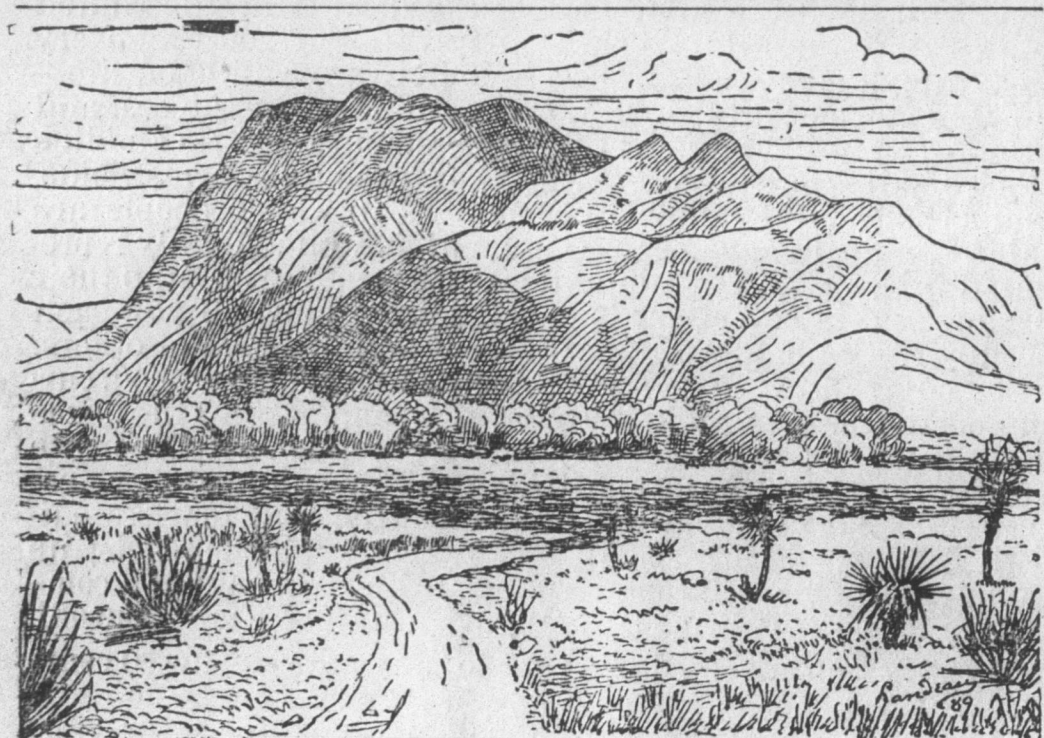
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPLORATIONS  
IN CHIHUAHUA.

Beautiful Scenery and Old Ruins—The  
Mormon Colony of Diaz—Considerable In-  
flux of American Capital into Northern  
Mexico.



THE Casas Grandes (the Big Houses) Valley and River, through and along which we have been traveling for some time, is formed by the junction of two rivers, the San Miguel and Piedras Verdes, writes Lieutenant Schwatka, in the Chicago *Inter Ocean*. The former, the San Miguel, is the straight-line prolongation of the Casas Grandes, and seemingly the true stream, but the Piedras Verdes is the more important, as its waters are perennially replenished with branches, which head in the never-failing springs of the Sierras to the west. On its picturesque bank we now find ourselves.

Just before reaching La Ascension we came to the Mormon colony of Diaz (named by them in honor of the present President of the Mexican Republic) numbering about thirty families. A discussion of their religious tenets is clearly—and fortunately—out of my province, not only from the heavy, dreary character of it, but for the reason that everything, wise and otherwise, about Mormonism has already been put before those who cared to read it. But entirely outside of the subject of polygamy, which has so completely obscured every other point about these people, they have one characteristic which is seldom heard of in connection with them and their wander-



ON THE ROAD FROM ASCENSION TO CORRALITOS

ings in the Western wilderness. I refer to their pioneering efforts, or the building up of new countries. They have no peer in pioneering among the Caucasian races.

They number here about seventy-five families, a mere fraction compared with all the available lands of the magnificent valleys of the Casas Grandes, Boca Grande, Santa Maria, and others, and never will predominate politically or in numbers over the others, counting the Mexican population, which is almost universally Catholic. In fact, those here seem content to settle down and be let alone, which they can attain here by the purchase of tracts of land over which they



ANCIENT MEXICAN JARS.

can throw their authority and be a little community unto themselves, neither disturbing nor hoping to be disturbed.

Corralitos was reached the first day. It has a very pretty, almost poetical, name, that loses much of its romantic character when it is known that it is named for some old, dilapidated sheep pens that once existed there.

It is a hacienda of about a million acres in extent, and one of the most beautiful ones in the whole State of Chihuahua, the Casas Grandes River running for some thirty miles through the estate. The true hacienda, of which we hear so much in Mexican narration, is really a definite area of twenty-two thousand acres, but it is used now so as to mean almost any large estate from that size, or even less, to any amount whatever under one management. Under the advance of American railways they are slowly disappearing, and will soon exist only in poetry and cheap-John novels. The views from the hacienda are beautiful in almost every direction. The one given in the illustration is taken from the La Ascension road, about six to eight miles from the hacienda. To the east lies a range of mountains filled with seams of silver, the Corralitos Company working some thirty to forty mines, while one hundred and fifty to two hundred "prospects" await development. It has been known since the Spaniards entered this part of Mexico. The vista along the Casas Grandes River is especially delightful. The Corralitos Company is mainly owned in the United States, New York parties being the principal capitalists. There is considerable influx of American capital into Northern Mexico, which is rapidly increasing with a fuller understanding of the country, and daily evidence of the greater stability of the Mexican Government.

This part is especially attracting attention with the subjugation of the Apaches and the consequent opening of the fine grazing and farming lands they held in terror so short a while ago. If half the "deeds" I hear of, even at these little villages remote from each other, are ever brought to a focus, American influence

will predominate in Northwestern Chihuahua in a few years. The Mexican Government encourages the element, for there is now no fear of a second Texas movement, the Americans who are here, and presumably those who will come, preferring the Mexican Government to that of the United States over them in the peculiar interests which naturally arise here, such as great grazing interests, the colonization of large tracts, railways, etc., our land laws forcing people into minute matters that do not exist here.

Twenty-five or thirty miles south of Corralitos we came to Casas Grandes, said to be a town of 3,000 people. We saw about ten people as we drove through the seemingly deserted streets. It is the most important town in the valley, both historically and in numbers. It takes its name, meaning "Big Houses," from the ancient ruins just in the suburbs of the present place, which contained the largest houses of any found in this part of Mexico when it was first visited by Europeans many centuries ago.

Here we left the river and struck out inland to the southwest to the Mormon colony of Juarez.

Like all distances in this part of Mexico, there is not a sign of civilization between, not even a camping-place, although the country traversed is a fine one for grazing cattle, with numerous valleys where farms could be made remunerative, and where three or four dozen houses ought to be seen if a tenth of the country's resources were developed.

The scene from the top of the ridge between the two rivers was an especially beautiful one, seldom surpassed in the most picturesque part of the United States. Far to the west were the grand Sierra Madres, crested with snow, while nearer were great shaggy hills covered with timber, a most delightful sight to eyes deprived so long of it in such masses; and yet still nearer were rolling lands covered with yellow grasses and traversed by little streams, where it seems a hundred houses ought to be nesting with thousands of cattle on the grassy hills. Above



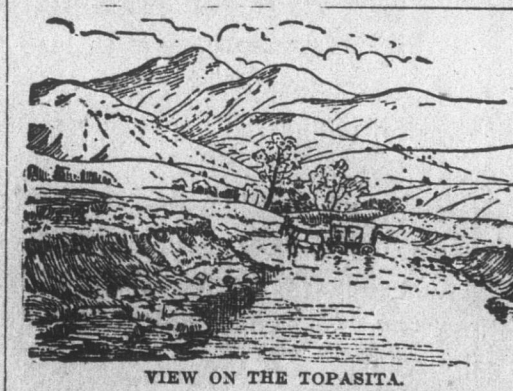
all is a sky that defies both poet and painter to describe.

Juarez is a bright-looking little Mormon town of some thirty-five families, almost Alpine in aspect as viewed from the steep bank overlooking it.

The next day we started to visit the ancient ruins on the Tapasita, a branch of the Piedras Verdes, and as beautiful a little valley as I ever saw in my life. I expected to find a well defined set of ruins at a certain point, so one can imagine my surprise somewhat when I found that the country, and especially the valleys, was covered with evidences of ruins.

There was a high hill called the Picacho de Forreón, whose southern face had been occupied by cliff-dwellers, while at our feet was a mass of reddish rubbish that indicated an old ruin of the later people, while twelve miles up the Tapasita was a massive ruin of stone; but to reach it ruins were in sight continually the whole way. We were surely in the midst of an ancient yet dense population, and the fertile resources of the country will yet again some day sustain another such, even far more civilized. Just before our arrival a pot or jar had been taken from one of the ruins, and was given to me by a young man of the colony, Mr. Ellis Johnson.

It is like so many jars that come from Casas Grandes and other better known ruins, and that have already figured in works on Mexico, but it is exceptional from the most of them in having upon it the figure of a bird, animals of all kinds being here upon their decorated surfaces. It is represented here with full and quarter view, the double picture being of the same pot or jar. The bird seems to correspond nearer to the chapparral cock, or California road-runner, than any other bird of this part of the world. The geometrical designs are the most common, and of these the zig-zag, star-like ones are the most constant. Many other things had been found in this mound, including human bones of the original makers, and



VIEW ON THE TAPASITA.

no doubt the same, with local variations, can be found in all. I believe I do not exaggerate when I say that we found 100 to 150 ruins in the Piedras Verdes region, most of them merely mounds to indicate what they once were; and not one-tenth of which had received notice by pen or pencil before.

Their ancient ditches could be made out along the hillside, which showed that they had once cultivated the rich soil of these valleys. They well understood the value of water, too, for around the bases of the small streamless valleys coming into the watered ones were dam-like terraces, evidently to catch and retain the water after showers until it was probably needed in the irrigating ditches. On the top of high hills adjacent were fortified

places apparently where they must have fled in times of danger from other tribes. They were a wonderful and interesting people.

The third sketch is on the Tapasita near the principal ruins, which must have been a city of these people. The only life we saw here was a mountain lion, or panther, that came trotting along the valley until it saw us and turned back to the mountains. **FREDERICK SCHWATKA.**

### LETTERS FROM THE CORNERS.

Hester Ann Recites More of Her Troubles.  
NECK OR NOTHIN HALL,  
KILKENNY CORNERS.

**M**R. EDITOR: I'd finished a tellin' you about William Henery an the lodge last time of that pesky ole bob-tale rooster an his gang of hens hedn't a got into my inyuns an scratched like all sin. It tuk me a plumb our to set them inyuns back into the bed.

But I was a goin to tell you how William Henery cum home from lodge, want I? Well about two o'clock in the mornin I heerd sum one make a awful timid nock onto the dore.

"Whose there?" ses I.  
"It's me—what's lef o me," sed a voice. An I want quite sure whuther it was William Henery or not, and so I ses:

"Who is me?"  
"Ole womin, you no well enuf who it is; let me in, I'm a most crippled." I noded who it wer then, fur William Henery he never speeks so only jes when he air very much excited.

"I tole you so," ses I, an then gashed out: "Laws, man! what on airth is the matter? Air you drunk?"

An, Mr. Editur, he wur about the wust lookin objec I ever did see. He didn't answer my questions, but went to lookin at his close.

"Look at that hat," ses he. "It's smashed flatter'n a pancake. It's totally ruined, Hester Ann, an thet cote split up the back an one tale gone. He dun it when he throwed me over his hed."

"An look at them pantaloon," ses I; "they air clean gone up."

"Yes," ses he, "and I went up in em, Hester Ann."

"Well, if you did go up in em, you cum purty nigh a cumin down out of em," ses I, purty short like.

"That's so, Hester Ann, but every bone in my buddy akes; I tell you, I've hed a tuf time to-nite," ses he, profotically.

"That's whot cums of ole men a caperin aroun on to old gotes an greasy poles. I knowed it wud be so," ses I, sturnly.

"But, ole womin, it wan't the gote, it was the—"

But I bruk rite in an ses, "Don't make it enny worse by fibbin, William Henery, but cum along an let me put on the vinegar poltis, it's good and hot."

"But, ole woman, thay was no gote; thet's jis a sayin. It was the—"  
"Don't deny it, William Henery, your addition speeks fur its self," ses I, calmly.

"But, Hester Ann, masonry didn't hev nothing to do with my addition. It was Square Ropers ole—"

"William Henery," ses I, "its bin my experience thet the masonry may be a fine thing it don't agree with ole men like you. Here's another vinegar poltis, so you jes lay still an go to sleep."

An thet has been the las of William Henery wanting to go to the lodge.

He is toleble well now, but his back was awful fur a few days.

He got well in time to go to Georges an Smanth's weddin, but he hed to git him a brand-knew sute of close tho, fur thay was hardly enuf of themins thet he wore thet nite to make carpet rags out of.

An then to think of him a tryin to lay it on to Squire Roper's ole Samson, when I knowed how it wud be when he wint, and I warrant him, but he wud go, an so he hed to suffer. Yours,  
**HESTER ANN SCOOPER.**

### The Imitative Chinaman.

Senator Stewart, of Nevada, does not believe in the theory that a Chinaman can progress, although he may be Americanized in most particulars. The other day he was telling about some of his strange experiences with the sons of the Celestial empire, when he said: "When we got our first Chinaman to cook, he didn't know a blessed thing about the kitchen, and it became necessary for Mrs. Stewart to go down and show him how to do everything. When you demonstrate in an ocular way how things should be done, John never forgets. He is very impressionable. Mrs. Stewart showed him how to make biscuits. After she rolled the dough, she took a cutter and began to cut the biscuits. When the whole roll was done there was a little triangular piece left, and of this she made a half moon, which is customary. I didn't know anything about it at the time, but at the end of three or four months I discovered that every day when our biscuits were served here was a half moon among the lot. At the end of a year I made inquiry about the matter of Mrs. Stewart, and she went into the kitchen and watched the Chinaman each time he cut his biscuits, and she discovered that he always made a half moon, and would spoil four or five biscuits to do so. He thought it was as necessary as the salt or the shortening."—*Washington Cor. Indianapolis Journal.*

"It takes three generations to make a gentleman," and a bottle of whisky will unmake him.

## SOME LARGE FAMILIES.

TWINS, TRIPLETS, QUADRUPLTS  
AND SEXTUPLETS.

Iowa's Champion Leads with Twenty-eight Children, and Another Hawkeye Claims Two Dozen—Michigan's Great Record—Wisconsin to the Front.  
(From the Chicago Herald.)

Dubuque, Iowa, May, 1890.  
Some interesting developments in connection with large families have been made in this vicinity. Melchor Mueller, who resides near Bellevue, in the neighboring county of Jackson, bears the distinction of being the father of one of the largest families on record. Twenty-eight children have been born to him, eighteen of whom are dead and ten living. In this number there were three pairs of twins. Mueller was born at Trondheim, Germany, in December, 1834, and is a robust, healthy man. He has been twice married. His first wife was Agatha Doser, a native of Germany, who bore him six children, three of whom are living. His second wife was Kunigunde Hummel, also a native of Germany, who is now living, aged 46. She has borne twenty-two children, seven of whom are living. Mueller is a poor but industrious man, deeply attached to his family, thoroughly domestic in his tastes, and, if his life is spared, thinks he will see several other flaxen-haired, rosy-cheeked children bear his name. The neighborhood in which Mueller resides is largely populated by Luxemburgers, and among them are many large families. Indeed, a family of less than this number is considered small in that neighborhood. A family of twenty-five children lives in Spruce Creek Township, Jackson County, near Mueller's home.

In the city of Dubuque there are many large families. John Benson, a painter, heads the list. He has been married but once, and is the father of eighteen children. His wife is a native of Iowa, 59 years of age. Their residence is 1090 White street. John Jennie, a laborer, comes next with a family of sixteen children. His wife is 43 years of age, and the couple declare they would not willingly part with one of their offspring. John Krayer, a well-to-do grocer in this city, has fifteen children by his present wife, who is now 43 years of age and a woman of robust health. George Neumiller has a family of fourteen, and Jake Dodge, a peddler, one of the same number. Joseph Goode is thoroughly happy surrounded by the same number of children. Those having thirteen children are: Leo McDaniel, Benedict Bessler, P. Vogel, Frank Maier, Fritz Reibitsch, P. McCullough and J. C. Curtis. Those having twelve children are: J. M. Lenahan, E. E. Jones, John Parker, Robert Miller, Adam Doer, A. J. Batson, H. A. Mayer, M. Gantenbeim, Joseph Bowen, G. Ridemeyer, Thomas Keneally, Anton Baumhaver, Henry Dippey, E. L. Curtis and Max Matsch. It would occupy a column of space to publish the names of the men in this city who are the fathers of eleven children each. With a great many that number seems to be high-water mark. It is related, here that in 1872 a woman named Schmidt, living at Rockdale, in this county, gave birth to six children, all within an hour. A year or two ago a woman named Murphy, residing in this city, gave birth to four children, all of whom were healthy and strong.

### Has Twenty-three, Still Living.

BELEVUE, IOWA.  
About three miles north of the neighboring township of Dows, this State, on the Brown road, there lives in a one-story house one of the most remarkable families on record. It consists of a father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. William Marks, with twenty-two girls and one boy. The oldest child is only 24 years of age; the youngest an infant child of eight months. There was an even two dozen children in the Marks family until November last, when the diphtheria visited them and carried off one. The husband and father of this immense family is a laboring man, possessed of no means of maintenance except his simple earnings, with which he supports his flock, and he has never yet entered their door. He is 43 years of age; his wife the perfect picture of health and comeliness—is one year his junior. They have been married twenty-five years this month.

### Twenty-one Young Fredericks.

STOUX CITY, IOWA.  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick are the proud parents of twenty-one children, two of whom have died; nearly all of the nineteen are grown and some are married. It used to be a standing joke in the neighborhood that the Fredericks bought hats and caps and boots and shoes, and that when he traveled with his family he procured car-load rates of the railroads.

### Atlantic's Showing.

ATLANTIC, IOWA.  
L. A. Lorenzen and wife, of this place, have had seventeen children. A majority of them are not living. W. Smith and wife have had two pairs of twins, and have had triplets once. All the children are living, and some of them are grown up and married.

### MICHIGAN'S GREAT RECORD.

Statistics from the State Census Show Many Prolific Women.

LANSING, Mich.  
George Batchelor was married and resided in Bunker Hill Township, in this county, shortly after the close of the war. During eleven children were added to his household. All the children are yet alive, and Mr. Batchelor is now dead. A. B. Angell, who, when twenty-eight years of age, married a sister of Mrs. Batchelor, referred to above, became the father of eight children in the first seven years of married life. This family was once blessed with triplets. The last State census of Michigan shows that there were 701 mothers who had given birth to their tenth child, 405 to eleven children, 251 to twelve children, 120 to thirteen children, sixty-three to fourteen children, twenty-seven to fifteen children, ten to sixteen children, eight to seventeen children, four to eighteen children, one to twenty children, and one to twenty-five children. There were 696 pairs of twins reported during the census year, and four sets of triplets.

### Come in Bunches at Grand Rapids.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.  
The wife of Professor La Pierre was one of a family of twenty-three children, and she is herself the mother of eleven, six of whom are still living. John Van der Houten is the father of twenty-two children by two marriages, and nineteen of them were alive at one time and all living under the same roof. Seven of the children have died at various ages. There were only two sets of twins. The late Leonard D'Voge was the father of fifteen children, five of whom are now living, one of the five being Professor D'Voge, of the State University faculty. John Shekhee is the father of thirteen children, only four of whom were girls. John W. Phillips has the credit of being the father of thirteen boys, all grown to manhood and themselves parents of large families. John Polsson is the father of an even dozen children, none of them twins, and the majority of the families persuasion. Michael Farrell, of Ada Township, has nine girls and two boys. Mrs. May, a widow, has ten children, the eldest fourteen years, six of them boys. Aaron B. Turner, editor of the *Eagle*, has two boys and six daughters living and one boy laid away to rest. Joan Montague,

of Georgetown, has thirteen children living and two dead, and all but three came either as twins or triplets. Seven of them are girls, and the eldest is eighteen years of age. A Polish family at Dow had one set of triplets, two pairs of twins, two solitaires, and last fall the mother gave birth to four babies at one time. All but the quadruplets are living. Julia A. Moore, of Edgerton, known as "the Sweet Singer of Michigan," had ten children. J. Loshosky has his modest home adorned with fourteen olive branches. Ten of them are girls, with four pairs of twins and one set of triplets in the family, the eldest of the lot being twelve years.

### Battle Creek Has Twins and Triplets.

BATTLE CREEK, Mich.  
There are many families in this city and vicinity with seven, eight or nine children. The largest family yet discovered is that of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sparrow, who are the parents of seventeen children, nine of whom are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Joe N. Sanford have twelve children. James Mulvaney has a family of eleven children. The youngest one is about eleven years of age and weighs 213 pounds. Another good-sized family is that of Isaac N. Johnson, which consists of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morse are the parents of eleven children, all but one of whom are living. In the last school census Jeremiah Conway is credited with ten children of school age, Hugh Gibson with nine, Christian Smeaton, and W. S. Nelson nine. Twins are quite numerous. Mrs. Michael Marlon recently gave birth to triplets. The most remarkable case of that sort here was that of Mrs. Alonzo Gray, who first gave birth to one child, then to twins and finally to triplets, all boys. The triplets were named "Tom, Dick and Harry." The latter lived for several months, but all three are now dead. Mrs. Alonzo G. Payne, living a few miles east, gave birth to male twins very recently.

### Nothing Remarkable About Benton Harbor.

BENTON HARBOR, Mich.  
Mrs. George Herman, of St. Joseph, has borne fifteen children, twelve of them girls and three boys. Mrs. Henry Butzack is the mother of twelve children. Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Morrison filled their cradle full of twins on Feb. 10 last.

### WISCONSIN TO THE FRONT.

Four Children at One Birth Near Eau Claire—Some Big Babies.

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.  
About two years ago Mrs. Grindale, of Chetek, a small town north of this city, gave birth to four boys at once, two of them weighing six pounds each and two of them five pounds each. The pair had been married about two years, and had previously been blessed with no children, nor have they had any since. The boys were all perfectly formed and lively, bright babies, but two of them died within a week, the other two living respectively six and five months. Had not the family been in destitute circumstances at the time, and had not the infants thereby suffered from the lack of immediate attention and of subsequent care, they would doubtless have lived. The parents had but just arrived in this country, and had settled in a remote spot, where aid did not reach them at once.

Mrs. John Neher, of this city, who is enjoying excellent health at the good old age of eighty-four, has had sixteen children—nine boys and seven girls—all of whom are living and are well-to-do residents of various Northwestern States. The youngest of the family, a boy, was born when Mrs. Neher was fifty-one years of age. The young man, who is a substantial citizen of Eau Claire, rejoices in being uncle to sixty-nine children and the father of six. Mr. Neher, the father of this remarkable family, is sixteen, is dead. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lile have four boys and eight girls, the oldest twenty-six, and Mrs. Lile is but forty-three years of age. Mrs. Louis Enguard, aged forty, recently gave birth to triplets and has had seven children in all. Mrs. William Bell has presented her husband with eleven children, who range in age from one to nineteen years, four being girls and seven boys. Mrs. J. Hotchkiss has had ten, the youngest a year old and the eldest nineteen. Families with nine children are frequently found, and ten children of one mother is not uncommon. Angus McVicar has been presented by his wife with fourteen, the oldest of whom is twenty-two. Mrs. Joseph Whelan has sixteen, ranging from four to twenty years. Mrs. William Carden recently gave birth to a boy weighing seven pounds, and Mrs. A. Gilbert to twins weighing seven pounds each.

### Figures from Dodgeville.

DODGEVILLE, Wis.  
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Brown, of Linden, are the parents of eleven children, all of whom are now living in different parts of the country. Mrs. Bleakly, a daughter is in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. James Callom, also of Linden, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Peterson, of the same town, have been blessed with families of twelve children; Mr. and Mrs. James Hutchinson, of Mineral Point, have had a like number. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Curry, of the town of Linden, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Davey, of Dodgeville, have magnified the record by one, and enjoy the enviable month of having become the parents of thirteen children in their respective families.

Mr. and Mrs. Erick Halverson, of Dodgeville; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lanyon of Mineral Point; and Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, of Mifflin, are the parents of fourteen children. Kearton Coates, a wealthy farmer and a former member of the Legislature, of the town of Linden, is the father of fifteen children, ten girls and five boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Linley, of the town of Arena, have had seventeen children. John Cruise, of the prolific town of Linden, comes forward with a bright and interesting column of twenty-one children. Mr. and Mrs. William B. Williams, of Dodgeville, preside over a family of twenty-two children. Mr. Williams being the father of all of them, he having been twice married. Mr. Williams is a wealthy farmer and lives near this village, and wields the domestic scepter over the largest and most interesting family, perhaps, in this part of Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Griffiths, of the town of Dodgeville, early settlers, and who now enjoy a comfortable home and competence, are the joyful parents of sixteen children, of whom two are twins. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Prudeaux, of this village, besides being the happy parents of three other children, enjoy the proud distinction of being the parents of two pairs of twins. Capt. W. L. Jones, of Ridgeway, made a record of twelve children, among whom were three pairs of twins. This was considered a very remarkable record until a family in Mineral Point made a record that has not been excelled, or at least has not been made public, in this part of the State. Mr. and Mrs. William Jacks, of that place, were the proud parents of ten children, among them a pair of twin girls. The girls grew to womanhood, and one of them married Wm. Paynter, of Mineral Point, and became the proud mother of twenty-one children. The other one married John Huxtable, also of that city, and raised a family of nineteen children, among whom were two pairs of twins.

### Nothing Great at LaCrosse.

LaCROSSE, Wis.  
Peter Bott is the father of twelve children, all living. John Olson, a Norwegian mill-hand, is the father of fourteen children, eight boys and six girls. Mr. Damrod, a resident of the Fifth Ward, is the father of a baker's dozen, all of whom are living. Mr. Lynch is the father of seventeen.