



When skies are cold with wintry stars, and hills
Are white with yester-even's snow, and lie
In ghostly state beneath the ghostly sky;
When many a gusty blast the darkness fills
With ever lonely, homeless sound, and chills
The window panes with frost; when crackling fly
The sparks about the hearth, and glow and die,
While in the pause his note the cricket trills;
Oh, then how dear is home! and what a sense
Of ruddy warmth and peace beguiles the mind!
And what a charm in listening while the wind
Blows fierce outside, through winter's starry tents,
And dies away around the window-pane,
And ever rises loud, and dies again!

—Ernest Warburton Shurtliff.

The Ligonier Banner.

J. E. McDONALD, Editor

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When the late John Weir, the first mayor of Ligonier, was told by a specialist that he had but a short time to live, he did not give himself over to despair and indulge in mournful lamentation. Instead he immediately proceeded to shape up his affairs so that his executor or administrator might have as little trouble as possible in putting on the finishing touches. The information conveyed to him was not of a cheering nature, but John Weir received it with philosophical resignation. When Schiller wrote: "With the decrees of fate no eternal compact can be made," he but stated a solemn truth. The recognition thereof should be helpful to every individual who has aimed to familiarize himself with the lessons of life.—J. B. STOLL in South Bend Times.

The packers say they don't need the tariff on hides, claiming that the cattle raisers will be the ones affected. But, inasmuch as the packing houses arbitrarily set the price of both cattle and meat, and invariably make the former as low and the latter as high as the market will bear, it occurs to the outside observer that such little perquisites as tariff favors never get beyond their pockets. If the producers will stand a cut and the consumers a raise, because of tariff changes they will get them. If they will not, then the packers will accept less profits. That is what they do anyhow!—South Bend Times.

Alluding to Mr. Carnegie's statement that steel rail industry in this country needs no protection, the New York Times says, under a tariff honestly revised, such as Mr. Taft announced that he was in favor of, that industry would get no protection. It continues:

The standpatters will call this revolution. We shall hear the alarm bell rung to arouse the people against the impending destruction of American industries. But Mr. Carnegie has always said, "It is better to be the devil's tool than the master of the nation's executive arm, to be made his slave with the intent to destroy the industries of his country." Is it not more probable that he has informed himself, that he has seen the light, that he has discovered the true conditions, that he has become convinced that the excessive duties which have so burdened our people and our industries are not only not necessary, but are an evil to be cured? It looks so. The inference, indeed, is not forbidden to us that Mr. Taft, like Mr. Carnegie, believes that the broad avenue to the development of our manufactures and our commerce lies not in that policy of exclusion which Mr. McKinley before his death had abandoned, but in showing a greater hospitality to foreign trade in order that our own commodities may find a great market abroad.

Hon. Luman K. Babcock of Topeka, private secretary to Gov. Hanly, aspired to be floor leader of the house, but he had the good sense to see that he was not in the race and gracefully withdrew several days ago. Mr. Babcock has been one of the Hanly lieutenants, has supported the Hanly policies, and will be the accredited Hanly representative in the lower house of the general assembly. It was this that made it impossible for him to win the leadership, which will doubtless go to somebody who is not so close to the governor. Mr. Babcock in point of ability, is one of the strongest men in the legislature.

The county council in Whitley county did not make any appropriation to meet the expenses of the proposed local option election. Application was made for the money, but it was generally understood that no action would be taken until after the policy of the legislature was known. This is good sense. There is absolutely no use to spend the people's money upon an uncertainty.

The property owners at Lake Wawasee and the people generally are objecting to the invasion of this beautiful body of water by the Syracuse cement people, and a determined effort will be made to protect the interests of the lake and the people who have invested their money in that neighborhood. The Syracuse people seem to think that nobody else has any rights about the lake that should not be made subordinate to their interests, and even a protest against the exploitation of the lake is taken as an attack upon the town. We cannot understand the contention that the marsh deposits of Lake Wawasee belong to Syracuse or to the Syracuse Cement Co., and that the lake should be worked for their benefit. The lake belongs to the people and all should have equal rights. All interests should be protected and we believe that if the present laws will not provide this protection the next legislature should enact a statute that will.

The New York Times is moved by a spirit of confidence, or perhaps a spirit of prophecy, to say in picturesque fashion:

The Gatun dam, which tumbled in the other day—the engineers with great presence of mind and much plausibility explained that they had expected it to fail, and that, in fact, it is a nice thing for a dam to fail in since the debris makes a good foundation—the Gatun dam; we say, is in a position of unconquerable stability compared with our protective tariff wall, which will totter under the impact of public opinion, and is being rapidly undermined by a swift and strange new opinion directed against its supporting strata by those who were born in it, Vigilant government and defenders. When Mr. Taft, the republican presidential candidate and our neighbor, the Tribune, founded and long edited by that able arch-protector, Horace Greeley, unite in demanding a revision of the tariff that shall no longer fool the people but shall protect them from extortion; unite in demanding, we may say, a fair and just measure of protection, it must be evident to the least observant minds that we have entered upon a new era, and that momentous changes impend.

Noting that one of the great packing houses of Chicago is perfecting a scheme for pensioning its ten thousand employees, based on the foundation of joint action between the firm and the employees, the Philadelphia Bulletin says:

The plan is notable as another illustration of the tendency toward the systematic pensioning of employees on the part of large corporations. Many important railroad companies have adopted this method, and it is said to work well in practice, inspiring the men to keener interests in their task, making them feel that their positions have a substantial value that is increasing, and relieving them of the fear of destruction in their old age. When the project is designed on co-operative lines by which each employee himself pays part of his future pension, the incitement to thrift and sobriety should be all the stronger. There are many indications that this movement is destined to spread widely. One of its aspects is seen in the system under which life insurance and annuities are provided at cost by Massachusetts saving banks. Great Britain has undertaken the scheme of national pensions by wholesale for the poor and aged. American methods, so far, are distinctly preferable to this.

Saloon Vs Blind Tigers
To swap a saloon for a blind tiger is a bad bargain. It means the elimination of all the saving features of the liquor traffic, such as sales within hours, Sunday closing, no selling to minors, no selling to persons already intoxicated—and the retention of all the dregs of the traffic.

Voting out saloons does not mean a dry country. It means an increase in crime, an increase in that worst of all types—periodical drunkards—an increase of dens of iniquity and vice. If there is any truth at all in the argument that drink and crime go hand in hand, what argument can there be in closing the public saloon, operated openly under strict police regulations, within hours and under many restrictions and constant surveillance and substituting therefor the blind tiger, which is acknowledged by all police and court authorities to be the breeding place of crime and vice, and the fence and headquarters for criminals.

The man who says blind tigers are as easily controlled as saloons is either a fool or a knave—he is either an ignoramus, blindly playing in the hand of crime and vice and intemperance, or he is a knave, wilfully doing so. He might as well argue that a moonshiner's outfit is as easily controlled by the revenue officers as a distillery, or that the secret service bureau has no more trouble with counterfeiting than it has with employees of the government.

Take this county, for example. Which has caused the more trouble and the more vice in the past two years, saloons or blind tigers? One blind tiger in Richmond has sent more young men and boys to the devil and created in them a desire for liquor than all the saloons in Richmond put together, and the authorities are unable to convict this one blind tiger! If the saloons are voted out this blind tiger will do a larger business instead of a smaller one, and yet it will be just as difficult to convict. Moreover, when the saloons are voted out there will be an immediate multiplication of blind tigers, which will have no regard for the law of hours, or days, or age, or sex. This is the invariable experience of every community in states where blind tiger laws are ineffective.—Richmond Item.

F. C. Reunion No. 7
The Funnel Gang held an annual meeting on Saturday evening last. Things were discussed until a late hour. Those present were: Head, Hutchinson, Socia Strait, Kelsey, D. Porter Thomas, Starr, J. Benton Maxwell, Willy Kelly and Hi Woodruff. Some others were expected, but they didn't have the car fare.

After feasting liberally on chicken, lemonade, iced water, etc. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mayor, H. F. Hutchinson; superintendent of water-works, Hi Woodruff; director of public works, C. Strait; typewriter to the mayor, Freddy Starr; chief of police, Doc Head; director of water wagons, Howard Kelsey.

Bum Quartett: Willy Kelly, D. Porter Thomas, J. B. Maxwell, and the mayor. Following the election and speeches of the newly elected officers some music was rendered by the bum quartett, whereas yea members dispersed in good order.

Respectfully submitted

FREDDY STARR, typewriter.

A Former Citizen Dead
William B. Hile, a widely known and successful farmer and pioneer of Noble county died at 8:30 Sunday morning at the home of his son, Rudolph Hile in Benton township, Elkhart county. He was aged 88 years and 9 months and 9 days. He had been in ill health for sometime.

Wm. B. Hile was born in Ross county, Ohio, March 18, 1820. He moved to Benton township with his parents in 1833. With the exception of a few years residence in Ligonier he spent his life in Benton township. He married Elizabeth Wilkinson, January 28, 1841. They had six children. Nancy and Willie died in childhood. Those surviving are Mrs. Susan Haney, Rudolph, Henry and Thomas Jefferson Hile. He also leaves 9 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. His wife died May 15, 1904, after a companionship of more than 63 years.

Wm. Hile and his wife carved a home out of the wilderness and by industry and frugality acquired a goodly amount of this world's goods.

While building his first house he promised God it would be a house of prayer. Ministers of the gospel were always welcome and his hospitality was almost unlimited.

He was converted under the ministry of Rev. Monson in 1848 and joined the Methodist Episcopal church and he and his wife were always pillars of the church. They were seldom absent from its service unless unavoidably detained. He efficiently filled each of the official positions of the church, but his delight was leading the meetings. He responded cheerfully and liberally to every call for financial support to the church and all its charities. After the death of his wife he made his home with his son and during his prolonged illness they and their families have tenderly cared for him. The church has lost a faithful member and the community a valued citizen.

The funeral was preached by Rev. W. E. Groves of the Milford Mall, Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 1 p. m. at the Elkhart church. Interment in Colclazer cemetery.

Notice to all Water Takers
You are hereby notified that all water rents are due Jan. 1, payable at the office of the City Clerk.

On all rents due and not paid on or before Jan. 20, a penalty of 10 per cent. will be added as per Sec. 18 of general ordinance No. 88.

R. E. JEANNERET,
City Clerk,
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21.

To Those Who Wish to Hear Katharine Ridgway

Tickets good for Ridgway and Grand Concert Co. can be secured at Zimmerman's for 75¢. Single admission tickets for Katharine Ridgway will be on sale Tuesday evening Jan. 5, 1909 at 7 o'clock. No more tickets will be sold than hall is able to accommodate.

COM.

Natural Death
Very few people die a natural death; for investigation shows that all those that die under seventy years of age die of some disease and their vital organs are more or less damaged. Disease is not natural, for it plainly is induced, and to have damaged kidneys, liver or other vital organs, tells clearly of wrong living. When the lungs are damaged by the breathing of foul air, and finally the bacillus tuberculosis because of the damage, finds opportunity to grow in them, then we have lung consumption.

Natural death can only occur in extreme old age. When a man is old, say one hundred years, and still preserves the last flickers of intelligence, he feels he is losing strength from day to day, his limbs refuse to obey his will, the wrinkled skin becomes insensitive, the extremities lose their warmth, the face is thin, the eyes hollow and sight weak or entirely gone; serum drops almost continually from the eyes, nose and partially open mouth, speech dies on his lips, breathing grows labored, life quits the old man from the surface to the center, and at last the heart stops beating. The old man's life departs quietly and he seems to fall asleep for the last time. Such is natural death, which follows a physiological life. Quite different is the death from disease which a pathological life. Natural death is due to exhaustion or from failure of nutrition, but most probably due to auto-intoxication (poisoning) of the organism. The very close analogy between natural death and sleep supports this view, as it is very probable that sleep is due to the effect of substances, which are products of our life processes. That the human body secretes poisons which will destroy life if not eliminated, is well known. Urea is such a poison, which if not regularly and thoroughly thrown off will cause uremic poisoning. The analogy between uremic poisoning at certain stages and sleep is striking.

As there are very few natural deaths and many unnatural ones—what is the conclusion? There can be but one conclusion and it is fully sustained by the facts—we commit suicide, principally through overeating or eating too much meat. So far as investigated, those who have died natural deaths ate little or no meat. They all were temperate and ate only plain foods. Metchnikoff says: "Men can hardly expect to further increase his average duration of life, now forty years, until he leaves out of his dietary, alcohol, meat, spices, tea and coffee." Alcohol destroys the cells, meat putrefies and makes poisons, the slow action of which damages the vital organs; spices unnaturally stimulate the appetite causing excessive eating and constipation, and tea and coffee contain caffeine, a drug which has a destructive effect upon the nerve cells and contains tannin which constipates.

To those who say they would rather indulge in these injurious substances and have the fun, we will say—"Thou fool, do you not see that a long and healthy life has in it more happiness than one that is short and diseased?" Socrates said, "Bad men live that they may eat and drink, whereas good men eat and drink that they may live."

A New Quarter
Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Blessing and Vern Schlotterbeck of Elkhart in company with Miss Edith Williams of Waukegan, Ill., were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Dr. E. L. Schlotterbeck during Christmas. Mr. Blessing recently moved into a fine new store much larger than his old one and his stock is now one of the most complete in the state. We take the following from a Bristol exchange regarding it.

In this issue will be found the announcement of the removal of the F. A. Blessing shoe stock at Elkhart, into new quarters. Mr. Blessing's success in the shoe business has occasioned much comment. The explanation however is easy—Mr. Blessing is a careful buyer of nothing but reliable goods which he can consistently recommend to the public and sold by him at a price that insures speedy sales at small profits. These points are augmented by polite attention to buyers and the exercise of much care in the fitting of feet, proceeding on the theory (a good one) that a satisfied customer means a continued patron. His new store is a beauty, Mission style of woodwork, oxidized brass trimmings, plate glass, etc. Give him a call when in Elkhart.

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COM.

New Tin Shop
I have opened up a new tin shop in Weimer's Incubator Factory on Pigeon street where I am prepared to do spouting, tin roofing and general repairing. Work satisfactory. Give me a trial. E. W. ALBRIGHT.

Too Often the Case
The needless wounding of human hearts by the unnecessary publication of details of unfortunate circumstances has often been the theme of newspaper criticism. The South Bend News contains the following, which only emphasizes the evil results that often follow such exploitation for merely sensational purposes.

It says: "There is somewhere in this city a young girl who feels that the whole world is against her and that life has nothing to offer her. Her tears are constantly falling, her heart is heavy with sadness and her mind is oppressed with a feeling of despair. Her own mother has turned against her, and she has no friends to whom she may go with her great sorrow. And if the statements of those who profess to know are true she is without fault. But she became entangled in an unfortunate affair, and her name was printed in connection with a statement that reflected upon her character. Out of the kindness of their hearts the people with whom she boarded are sheltering her for the present. She has no other place to go. A firm that gave her employment after her unfortunate experience discharged her as soon as her identity became known. She is at the age when most girls have the protection of kind and prudent parents and when a girl needs a true friend more than at any time in her life. The future is very gloomy to her. She is left to fight her battles alone with fearful odds against her."

Commissioners Award Contracts

The commissioners met Tuesday for the purpose of awarding contracts for supplies for the year of 1909, and closing up the business of 1908.

W. B. Burford of Indianapolis, was awarded the contract of Class 1, consisting of blank books, records, ruled blanks, class 3, stationery, pens, pencils, ink, etc., class 5, binding assessment lists. The contract for class 2, consisting of blanks requiring two or more impressions of press work was awarded to W. H. McEwen, publisher of the ALBION DEMOCRAT, class 4, blanks printed at a single impression, and class 6, printing bar dockets to E. L. Adair. Eagles & Son was awarded the coot contract, H. D. Stone, the contract for gasoline, toilet paper, electric light bulbs and disinfectants.

Edwin L. Prickett, clerk-elect, Willis E. Sawyer, surveyor-elect, James T. Johnston, bridge superintendent-elect and Oscar Pippinger, janitor-elect filed and presented their bonds.—ALBION DEMOCRAT.

Have Good Grounds

The objections of the Lake Wawasee Cottagers' association to the proposed dredging of the lake by the Syracuse Cement Co., or some concern of similar title, are well taken and the state should prevent the destruction of the beautiful lake's most appealing feature in the interests of a private corporation. The people who own the land surrounding this lake purchased the property for the purpose of maintaining summer homes. The wooded shores of the lake are one of the most beautiful of Indiana's summer resorts and their scenic beauty is added to by the fair lake. The fishing constitutes one of the principal features that draw summer tourists by the thousand. The wooded shores of the lake are one of the most beautiful of Indiana's summer resorts and their scenic beauty is added to by the fair lake.

The fishing constitutes one of the principal features that draw summer tourists by the thousand. The state and the government have stocked the waters with fish. Now comes a private corporation, seeking nothing but financial returns, caring nothing for the rights of the riparian property owners, or opportunities for whole-some sport. This company pays nothing to the state for the privilege of dredging, but expects to get, free of cost, the material that, turned into cement, will enrich itself. It argues that the state cannot afford to interfere with its industry to preserve a summer resort. But the argument is not good even from a financial standpoint, for once it has denuded the lake of its marl it will seek other fields, and the beautiful body of water will be robbed of the feature that now brings thousands of people to Indiana to spend their vacations. The state should lay a heavy hand on any company that proposes to destroy this lake to reap a pecuniary advantage to itself. The lake should be preserved and the company should be stopped from destroying the fish beds which the state has cultivated.—FORT WAYNE Journal-Gazette.

Cure for Hog Cholera

The Missouri Agricultural college has perfected a serum that is an anti-toxin for hog cholera. It is claimed that by its use the farmers in Missouri can be made secure against loss of swine from cholera, and that the annual saving will range from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000. A serum that will make hogs immune in Missouri will doubtless do the same thing in Illinois, Indiana and the other hog-growing states, and if the farmers will but take advantage of it the people in the cities will in the future be able to buy smoked ham, bacon, spare-ribs, sausage and wienerwurst at one-third off present prices.

Another Wilgen Divorce

It is given out that Mrs. Mary Wilgen will in a few days file suit for divorce from Abraham F. Wilgen, and that a settlement of the property interests will be agreed upon without the suit coming to trial. Mr. and Mrs. Wilgen have been married about nine years. Mrs. Wilgen is forty-seven years of age, while her husband is seventy-five. Mrs. Wilgen formerly resided in Chicago.

An anti-nuptial contract which was entered into between Mr. and Mrs. Wilgen at their marriage, was canceled later on.

An Interesting Letter