

News of our Churches.

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA, Dec. 15, 1885.—The 7th instant was a day of special interest to this people. In common with all the people of this land, we were happy to observe the day as a day of Thanksgiving, on the recommendation of our Chief Magistrate. Our places of business were mostly closed. In addition to this general interest, our new Presbyterian church was on that day dedicated to the worship of God.

The erection of this edifice has been a year and a half in progress. When commenced it was supposed that \$5500 would complete it, but in consequence of losses, and increased prices, it was found that nearer \$15,000 would be needed to finish and furnish the house of worship. The liberality and perseverance of the congregation is worthy of all praise. The members of the church are few in number, and limited in their pecuniary ability, but the members of the congregation not communicants, have evinced as lively an interest in the work as the members of the church. Of many of them it may be said as was said of the centurion—"He loveth our nation and hath built us a synagogue." May their souls in that house be washed and sanctified. They have erected for the worship of God as neat, tasteful, and commodious a church as I know of in Iowa.

After a sermon and other services appropriate to the day, conducted by the pastors of the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches, it was stated, on behalf of the trustees, that they had expended \$4000 more than they had received, and an appeal was made to the congregation to come forward to their relief. As the result of this appeal \$3000 was raised at once, and the remaining \$1000 will doubtless soon be secured.

This is the congregation to which Rev. L. H. Loss ministered the last three years of his life, and where he died on the 10th of last July; and this is the church edifice for the erection of which he so earnestly and successfully labored. Let it be recorded as a tribute to his memory, that all here feel and acknowledge that to his persevering exertions, do the people of this town owe their most beautiful and imposing structures, and our Presbyterian church and congregation this elegant temple for the worship of the most High God.

H. H. K.

SOUTH ORANGE CHURCH, a thrifty country church in New Jersey, has made its contributions to benevolent objects during the current year, reach the footing of \$3000.

CHANGE OF LABOR.—Rev. W. K. Boggs has resigned the position of acting pastor of our church in Marengo, Iowa, to assume the office of instructor in the instruction in Ottumwa, in the same State. The place which he vacated is to be filled by Rev. Mr. Arnold, late of Ohio.

ELDER'S MEETING.—The Presbytery of Monroe, Mich., at its last stated meeting, proposed a meeting of the ruling elders within its bounds, to be held in Adrian, November 21. The meeting was held according to appointment, and attended by twenty-five ruling elders and five ministers, the latter we suppose as spectators, or members by courtesy. A business committee brought forward the following topics for discussion:—

- "1. To what extent is the office of Ruling Elder a pastoral office?"
"2. The responsibilities of Elders in promoting revivals of religion."
"3. The relation of the Session to the Sabbath-school."
"4. The duty of Elders concerning attendance on ecclesiastical meetings."

These topics were put into the hands of committees to prepare reports upon them respectively. These reports, as they came up, elicited a profitable discussion, some parts of which were of very peculiar interest. That on the first topic was from the pen of Judge Noble, of Monroe, and was a thorough elaboration of the ruling elder feature in our church policy. It was very satisfactory, and will be published. Respecting the relation of the Church session to the Sabbath-schools, the conclusion reached was that it should be one of supervision and sustentation. The other topics were satisfactorily disposed of, and the best influence from the meeting is expected in the churches to which its members return, and in the Presbytery as a whole. In the course of the sessions, a sermon, which is said to have made a deep impression, was preached by Rev. Dr. Mattoon, of Monroe, on the Westminster Assembly's Catechism, as a Text Book in the Sabbath-school. Before adjournment, provision was made for a similar meeting next autumn.

MALONE, N. Y.—The Church in Malone, in northern New York, so intimately associated with the name of Ashbel Parmelee, D.D., is, in location, numbers and vigor, among the first, if not the first in that part of the State. The entire season since the week of prayer last January, has been with it one of quiet unabated revival. This has been unaccompanied by extra efforts, in the popular sense of that term. The main instrumentality has been abundant preaching and labor by the pastor, Rev. J. R. Herrick, and prayerfulness and interest on the part of the Church. Last October the physical endurance of Mr. Herrick yielded to the long strain upon his powers, and he has since been confined by a lingering typhoid fever. The young people of the congregation have participated most largely in the converting influences. Thirteen of those added to the Church are heads of families, and

one is about seventy years old. The whole number received on profession during the year is forty-five.

THE KIND AND JUST WAY OF DOING IT.—As such we characterize the action of the congregation of our connection in Windham, O., reported in the Christian Herald. Their pastor, Rev. Mr. Shaw, has for some time past been disabled from preaching by ill-health, and present appearances indicate that a considerable time must elapse before he can resume his pulpit duties. The people have come to his relief by employing Prof. Cutler, of Western Reserve College, as a temporary supply, making in the meantime no deduction from the salary of their afflicted pastor.

GRAND TRIAL OF SEWING MACHINES.

THE WILCOX & GIBBS' TRIUMPHANT. IT IS DECLARED THE BEST MACHINE, AND AWARDED THE HIGHEST PREMIUM.

(From the Troy Daily Times.)

THE TRIAL.

At the great Union Fair held at Island Park, between Albany and Troy, Sept. 18, 20, 21, 22, and 23, 1885, two premiums were offered on sewing machines; one for "the best sewing machine," and the other for "the second best," competition being open "to the State." On the first day of the Fair, the agent of the Florence Sewing Machine—published in the Troy Daily Times a "challenge" to the agents of other sewing machines, to meet them in competition at the Fair. The challenge was accepted by the agents of the Wilcox and Gibbs; but those of all the other double-thread machines declining, it was left for the Florence alone to represent in the trial the entire double-thread class. Thus, by this single-handed trial between these two representative machines, was virtually decided the relative merits of the two classes—the new, single thread, "Wilcox and Gibbs' stitch" class, on the one side, and the old, double thread, "lock" or "stitch" class, on the other. The parties being allowed to select the judges, chose three, all of whom were practical machinists, and a majority sewing machine experts, who were approved and appointed by the officers of the Fair, and the following programme for conducting the trial was mutually agreed upon between the contestants, and adopted by the judges, viz.: Each party to prepare and submit to the judges a list of the several points of merit on account of which superiority was claimed; each of which points was to be separately considered, thoroughly investigated, and practically tested, by work done upon each of the machines, and then decided. It was also agreed that each party be at liberty to point out defects in the other's machine, and to make tests to prove the same. Finally, it was agreed that the machine which, at the conclusion of the examination, should be found to have the greatest number of points decided in its favor, should be declared the "BEST SEWING MACHINE," and awarded the "FIRST PREMIUM." The result of the trial was, that the WILCOX AND GIBBS won the victory, and the prize, by the extraordinary superiority of thirty-five points decided in its favor against two points in favor of the Florence, as will be seen by the judges' report, given below. Full notes of the trial were taken by a reporter who was present, the following extract from which, kindly furnished for the occasion, is deemed pertinent for insertion in this connection, as a necessary link in the history of the examination:

EXTRACT FROM NOTES OF THE TRIAL.

While preparing for the trial, the agents of the Florence Machine suggested that the agents of the Wilcox and Gibbs' had, in the experience of Mr. Battery, the Company's general agent from New York, an advantage, and requested that Mr. Tucker, (Chairman of the judges who had formerly been Assistant Superintendent of the Florence manufactory some time, be allowed to assist himself and the Albany agent of the Florence in the examination. To this the other party consented, and Mr. Tucker accordingly assisted them, both in the preparation of their list of points and in conducting their side of the trial throughout. The part of the chief manager, operator and advocate, as did Mr. Battery on the side of the Wilcox and Gibbs'. Though myself, as sewing machine man, it was not difficult to perceive that each was a workman understanding his business; and so far as a "lawyer" could judge, the two sides were very evenly matched in "professional ability." It is certain that the trial, which lasted six or seven hours, was conducted on both sides with a degree of energy, method and skill, that would have been creditable at the bar of a higher court, and with a thoroughness of practical detail which must have developed about all the qualities, good or bad, possessed by either of the machines.

REPORT OF THE JUDGES.

To the Officers of the Union Fair: We, the undersigned, appointed a special committee to inspect the merits of the several sewing machines entered for premiums, would respectfully report: That two machines were entered—The Wilcox and Gibbs' and the Florence Sewing Machines. In prosecuting the examination, it was agreed by the agents representing the two machines, to render to your committee in writing, the peculiar points on which they based their claim of superiority; and in testing the machines, each point was to be taken separately, and after a fair trial, adjudged to the best of our ability. Each agent presented their claims in due form, copies of which will be found below. For the Wilcox and Gibbs' Machine, thirty-five distinct claims were made for its superiority, ALL of which were sustained. Whereas for the Florence Machine, but ten were presented, two of which were sustained. After a thorough and impartial trial, your committee have decided to award to the Wilcox and Gibbs' Machine the FIRST PREMIUM, on the ground of its excelling in the greatest number of points presented. To the Florence Machine, for having the advantages of a "reversible feed" and using the least thread, we award the Second Premium.

SYDNEY D. TUCKER, L. C. CHAMPNEY, JOSEPH WHEELOCK, Judges.

September 22, 1885.

CLAIMS OF THE FLORENCE MACHINE.

- "1. A reversible feed. This claim was sustained."
"2. It makes four different stitches. Claim not sustained."
"3. It works from thin to thick fabrics, or over an uneven surface, without missing stitches and without change of tension, needle, or stitch. Not sustained."
"4. The advantages of a double thread as in all shuttle machines. Not sustained."
"5. It will do a greater range and variety of work than any other machine, being used for shirt and collar making, both in Albany and Troy; also for tailors' work. It will hem, (narrow and wide,) tuck, fell, bind, stitch, quilt, gather and sew on, (or "puff") and will do anything that can be done on any other machine, except embroidery; it can also do ornamental stitching. Not sustained."
"6. Has a self-adjusting tension on the under thread; the stitch is alike on both sides. Not sustained."
"7. The stitches will not rip if one is broken or worn off; yet it can be taken out, in case a mistake is made in placing the fabric. Not sustained."
"8. It uses less thread than other machines. Sustained."
"9. The manner in which the threads are drawn when making the stitch; no dependence being placed upon wire coils; every motion

being positive, and the stitch certainly and securely drawn tight. Not sustained.

"10. The Florence is as easily managed as any machine in the world. Not sustained.

CLAIMS OF THE WILCOX AND GIBBS' MACHINE.

- "1. It is the simplest."
"2. It is the least liable to get out of order."
"3. It is the best-made machine; every part being a duplicate—which is not the case with the Florence."
"4. It is the cheapest."
"5. It runs the stillest."
"6. It runs the easiest."
"7. It runs the fastest."
"8. It has the best device to prevent the wheel running backward. The Florence has no such device."
"9. It requires less mechanical skill to operate it."
"10. It requires less time and instruction to learn to use it."
"11. It is the most certain and reliable in operation."
"12. Its needle is the shortest."
"13. The needle is also straight, and less liable to be broken than one curved like the Florence."
"14. It is beveled, and therefore stronger than one with a small shank, like the Florence."
"15. The needle is secured in its place by a patented device, which renders it self-adjusting, so that neither skill nor experience is necessary in setting it. It is not so with the Florence."
"16. It uses but one thread, and thus avoids the necessity of complicated machinery, which is required for two threads, as in the Florence."
"17. It sews directly from the spool, thus making it unnecessary to rewind the thread and adjust it in the shuttle."
"18. It makes the Wilcox and Gibbs, or twisted loop stitch—a stitch original with this machine, and made by no other, which for general purposes is superior to either made by the Florence."
"19. Its seam has the peculiar advantage of being readily taken out when it is desirable, while it is less liable to rip in use or wear, than the lock stitch."
"20. The seam is more elastic and stronger than the lock stitch."
"21. The seam is also the most even and beautiful."
"22. The seam is always self-fastened, thus avoiding the necessity of a "reversible feed" or any other complicated device for that purpose."
"23. Its tension is more simple and more easily adjusted."
"24. It will do a greater variety of work than the Florence can do, in equal perfection."
"25. The machine is more easily and speedily changed from one kind of work to another."
"26. More work can be done with it in a given time than with the Florence."
"27. It does beautiful embroidery, which the Florence cannot do."
"28. It has a shield to the wheel, which the Florence has not."
"29. The needle being carried in a perpendicular bar, it has important advantages over machines with curved needles attached directly to the needle arm, as in the Florence—one of which is its non-liability to derangement from alterations of temperature."
"30. In consequence of the shorter sweep of the needle, there is much less wear of the thread from its vibrating through the needle's eye in the act of sewing."
"31. A smaller needle can be used with the same size of thread, which adds to the strength and beauty of the seam especially on linen or other hard goods."
"32. It has the best hemmer."
"33. It has the best braider."
"34. It has the best presser."
"35. It has the best belt."

ALL THE FOREGOING CLAIMS IN FAVOR OF THE WILCOX AND GIBBS' MACHINE WERE SUSTAINED.

REMARKS.

This remarkable trial cannot fail, through the facts developed by it, to be productive of important results. It has raised the veil, and exposed to public view the true character of the "opposition," who will now no longer be able to deceive the public by misrepresenting the character and merits of the Wilcox and Gibbs'. By this trial—more thorough than any of the kind ever previously attempted—a trial before an able and impartial jury, the justice of whose verdict none can dispute, it has been proved, decided, and published to the world, that the Wilcox and Gibbs' machine is just what it has been claimed to be—an improvement on double thread machines; for the relative merit of the two kinds of stitches made by these two classes of machines, were there subjected to the most rigid tests, by work done upon each machine, on the same piece of goods, and with thread from the same spool; and the result was an unanimous decision that the "Wilcox & Gibbs," or "Twisted Loop" stitch—instead of being less reliable than the "Lock" stitch, as represented by its opponents—is even more so; that while it may be rayled by a certain process, when necessary, it is less liable to rip than that stitch, in use or out of use.

In order to appreciate fully the importance of this trial, it is necessary to consider some of the peculiar circumstances connected with the early history of the Wilcox and Gibbs' machine, and its relation to other leading kinds—all of which, it is well known, are of the double thread class. Previously to the introduction of this machine, the country had become so flooded with cheap and worthless machines, that the public mind was generally prejudiced in favor of the high-priced, double-thread machines, that most people were prepared to accept, as truth, the teaching of those interested in the latter class, without question; and since many of those cheap machines were single-thread ones, it was no difficult task to educate the public into the belief that all single-thread machines, as well as all high-priced, were necessarily worthless. And so faithfully was this task performed, that the double-thread interest was thereby enabled to acquire, and for a short time to maintain, a monopoly, and to keep their prices up to a point which forbid the use of machines to thousands of persons of that class who most need them, but are least able to buy. It was a real and a cruel wrong, and it is a charming little machine—that Wilcox & Gibbs'—that was needed, and the production of a simpler and better, as well as cheaper machine, than the Wilcox and Gibbs' was invented and placed before the public.

The double-thread fraternity, perceiving at once its great merit, very naturally became alarmed. A rival so dangerous to them all was not to be overlooked; and was not to be tolerated; it must be put down. With the exception of one or two, the average was all on their side. Back had their thousands of Agents, scattered over the country, who would open the mouth at their bidding; while the Wilcox & Gibbs', with here and there a solitary exception, as yet had none. The word was given, and the key-note sounded: "A single thread!" "A single thread!" and ten thousand Agents' voices echoed, "A single thread!" "A single thread!" "A single thread!" "A lady customer, a fair friend, says a charming little machine—that Wilcox & Gibbs'—that runs so easily, and so quietly!" "Oh! yes, Madam; but then, it is only a single thread, and a single thread machine, you know, is of no value as a sewing machine." "Why, how you talk! 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