

TIMBER PROSPECTS FOR THE WEST.

BY C. S. HARRISON, Of May Flower Colony, York, Nebraska.

Thousands in the East would like to have western homes. They have heard of the returns which reward the laborer, and the ease with which farming can be carried on by machinery; "but then," say they, "there is the scarcity of timber."

Having lived thirty years in the Western States, we are prepared to say something of our timber prospects. Timber with us grows with wonderful rapidity. Thirty years ago people made the same objection to going to Illinois which they now make to going to Nebraska; but notwithstanding the wood that has been burned, and the millions of railroad ties which have been furnished, there is more timber in Illinois to-day than ever.

All through Nebraska timber planting is an enthusiasm. Every farmer and pre-emptor, have filed claims to prairies, and nearly 3,000 others have bought them of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, on ten years' credit, six per cent. interest; and on contracts since 1872, no part of the principal payable, till the beginning of the fifth year.

A New Catechism. Q. What is the church? A. A corporation in which the honorary members are more numerous than the paying members.

Q. What is resignation? A. A willingness to go to heaven when you can't stay any longer in this world. Q. What is benevolence? A. Giving twenty-five cents to send the gospel to the heathen, and fifty dollars for new clothes.

Q. Why are elders "ruling"? A. Because they sometimes rule the other members of the session, and rule the pastor, and rule the whole congregation, and rule everything but themselves. Q. How is the Sabbath kept? A. By reading the newspapers, worldly talk and criticizing the preacher.

Q. How can a boy be ruined? A. By giving him plenty of money, no restraints, and allowing him to stay out late at night without any questionings. Q. How can you finish off a girl? A. By gossip, dress and novels. Q. Who tells the most lies? A. "They say."

Q. What is a competency? A. A little more than one has. Q. What is often the most difficult part of a pastor's work? A. Collecting his salary. Q. Who are a very promising people? A. Those who do not pay their church subscriptions.

Q. What is a pulpit? A. A successful invention to represent eloquence. Q. What is the right of private judgment? A. The privilege of entertaining the same opinions that we do. Q. What is the test of truth? A. The opposition of foolish and unreasonable men.

Q. Why are many prayer meetings like some large mercantile firms? A. Because they have many silent partners. Q. What is the most important part of knowledge? A. The knowledge of one's own ignorance. Q. When are people suddenly impressed with their poverty? A. When you present them with a call for charity.

Q. What neighborhoods are most noted for gossip? A. Those of which we know the most. Q. Is there any limit to the capacity of the human family for lying? A. Positively none. Q. When are people ready to find fault with their pastor? A. When they are in arrears for his salary.

Q. What great principle of Confucius seems to have been learned from modern christians? A. The "doctrine of the mean." Q. What is one of the lost arts? A. Minding one's own business. Q. What is an air-castle? A. A man who is in debt devising plans for expending his money when he becomes a millionaire.

Q. Of what ought most people to be ashamed? A. Themselves. Q. What can't come out of a man's head? A. That which is not in it. Q. What is an old fogy? A. A man who should have been born in the dark ages. Q. Who never finish their work? A. Fault-finders. Q. What never puts anything into the contribution box? A. Good wishes.

Q. Who are most confident in their opinions about anything? A. Those who know the least about it. Q. Who is the great representative of those who oppose enterprises of benevolence? A. Judas. Q. What discouraging circumstance happens to all good children that we are told about in Sunday school books? A. They die young. Q. How does it appear that many treat religion in the same way they do poor relations? A. They keep at a distance, and don't admit it to familiar intercourse. Q. How does Cowper describe a class of men of whom there are now many in the church?

corn fields, and grows as high as the corn, (six feet,) the same year. "Well, for the next five or ten years what will you do?" The herd law obviates the necessity of fencing, yet the people are planting fences, which cannot blow down and do not rot; and, harsh as it may sound to Eastern ears, corn makes an excellent fuel. It is ascertained that a pound of corn is worth as much as a pound of coal; and there is generally such a plethora of this commodity that it can be had for fuel much cheaper than many an Eastern household can be supplied with coal.

The question of pressed fuel, from weeds and straw, is now being agitated; and in western Iowa, compressed hay is already used. Seedling forest trees are furnished at from \$2 to \$10 per thousand. In the United States Land Office, at Lincoln, more than 25,000 homesteaders and pre-emptors, have filed claims to prairies, and nearly 3,000 others have bought them of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, on ten years' credit, six per cent. interest; and on contracts since 1872, no part of the principal payable, till the beginning of the fifth year.

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A. They "do nothing with a deal of skill." Q. How may a man secure the ill-will of a large number of people? A. By writing such an article as this—Southern Presbyterian.

CENSUS STUDIES.

BY PROF. J. D. BUTLER.

RISE IN LAND-VALUE. Aside from woodland the unimproved acres in Nebraska farms were 1,318,876, so that the total farm acreage amounted to 2,078,781; the cash value of which, in 1870 was \$30,242,186, an average of \$14.58 per acre. Each acre, then, in thousands of homesteads, is worth to-day as much as one hundred and sixty acres cost—"fourteen dollar farms." There farms bought of the United States have not usually cost one-tenth of their present value though a majority of them have been purchased within ten years. The value of land in England has increased during the last fifty years, less than twenty-nine per cent. (28.68 in exact figures): within one-fifth of that time, the lands of Nebraska have advanced one thousand per cent.

But more than two-thirds of the land in Nebraska farm (68.8 per cent.) is still unimproved. Therefore, land-values have not risen one-third as much as they will rise. FARM LANDS HOW FAR IMPROVED. In all the States in the Union, except two, more than thirty per cent. of the land in farms was unimproved in 1870. Those two States were New York and Illinois. The percentage of farm land unimproved in the former was 29.6; in the latter 25.3. Illinois is, then, the Agricultural Banner State. Her farms are more pervasively cultivated—no corner untouched, because they are like eggs—good throughout; and because she was settled earlier than any other genuine prairie State. But, as Iowa and Nebraska are likewise prairie States, counterparts of Illinois, when they are as old, their farms will show as small a percentage of land unimproved. Indeed, railroads will hurry on their development faster than they have accelerated the growth of Illinois.

But, as more than one-third of the area of Massachusetts has remained untilled after two centuries and a half of settlement, it is likely so to remain till doomsday. The truth is, the percentage there untilled was greater in 1870 than it was in 1850, while the valuation of farm lands was about seven millions less, \$6,823,164. NO! FOR THE NORTH POLE. Capt. Parry, having sailed north till he reached a field of solid ice, landed on it with sleds and a force of trained dogs. He drove on due north twenty miles a day for three weeks; but, on taking an observation, was thunderstruck at finding that he was, after all, south of the point from which he had started. The reason was, that while he was driving one way the ice-field was drifting another.

So faced it with many an Ohio farmer. Work as hard as he will, his farm is drifting down. On the other hand, the Nebraska is on an ice-field drifting the same way that he is driving. His gains are not merely his crops, but the growth in land-value, always greatest in new countries—a growth no frost, no drought, no deluge can stop—which keeps on, like interest while he is asleep, and insures him all that Capt. Parry lacked for reaching the goal of his ambition. POPULATIONAL PROGRESS. Up to New Year's, 1873, the claims filed in Lincoln, the Nebraska capital, by homesteaders were 12,304; by pre-emptors 13,447; purchasers of railroad land along the line of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad were 2,325. Their farms amounted to 294,625 acres, bought on ten years' credit, six per cent. interest, and on contracts made since 1872, nothing of the principal is payable till the end of four years.

Couldn't Sign Away His Liberty. A Missouri planter, having allowed his swine to range in the woods, at one time missed several of them. Suspicion at once rested upon a certain neighbor, and the planter resolved to watch the actions of his pork-loving neighbor. One day, while riding through the woods, the planter came upon the man in the act of lifting a fine young porker to his saddle in order to take it home. "Now," said the planter, "I have caught you at last." "Yes, massa, you's ketchted me sure dis time."

"Well, I shall have to send you to prison." "Oh, no, massa, you ain't gwine to send me to prison: Just you think of my poor wife and children," and the poor man put in such an earnest plea for his wife and children that the planter's heart relented. "Well," said the planter, "I'll tell you what I will do. You pay me for one-half the number of swine you have killed and sign a paper not to kill any more, and I will let you go."

"No," said the lover of his neighbor's pork, "no massa, I will pay for all I have stolen, but as for signing away my liberties, I can't do it."

—Duty is the first step to greatness—the helm that steers man safely over the billows of life. If we fail in our duty, we bid farewell to the land of promise—to the haven of hope; man's honorable occupation is gone. —A line like this comes handy.

History. COUNTY OFFICERS. President—A. W. Acheson. Associate—Milton Lawrence. Secretary—Joseph O. Wilson. Probationary—John C. Okey. Clerk of Court—John C. Hart. Sheriff—Chamberlain White. Register & Recorder—James S. Stokes. Assessor—Charles F. Wallace. Commissioners—Dan. Keay, Samuel Lawrence, Hugh J. Marshall, Clerk of Commission—John McGowan. Counsel to Commission—E. H. Harris. Coroner—Daniel O'Connell. Auctioneer—C. H. Hoyt. C. C. Rugg. District Attorney—H. McCreey. County Surveyor—D. J. McCreey. Jury Commissioners—James W. Woodcock, Robert Potter. Directors of the Poor—William Blinn, Samuel Gibson, B. J. Cross, John Murray, James H. Lagaw, Henry Rice, Mattison Durrah, James M. Smith.

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ASSOCIATIONS. Endeavor Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 163—William Carter, W. C. T., Tillie Moorhead, W. S. Meets Friday evening in their hall above A. C. Hart's Dry Goods Store. Excelsior Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 356—Samuel McCabe, N. G., David Woodruff, Secretary. Meets every Tuesday evening. Excelsior Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 116—D. Shumaker, C. P., Wm. Morton, H. P., D. Woodruff, Scribe. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of each month in Old Follows Hall.

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NEW BRIDGEWATER. Friends—Meeting at 11 A. M. every Sunday. Catholic—Rev. J. C. Bigham, Priest. Services, 1st, 3d and 5th Sundays each month at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 P. M. every Sunday at 10 1/2 A. M., and 7 P. M. Church of God—Rev. M. McKee, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 A. M., and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 A. M. Baptist—Rev. Dr. Winter, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 A. M. United Presbyterian—Rev. A. G. Wallace. Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 A. M. O. E. Presbyterian—Rev. B. C. Critchlow. Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 1/2 A. M. Rev. Spaulding, Rector. Services at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 1/2 A. M. Seats for all in the building. Methodist Episcopal Church—Rev. F. C. Crowther. Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 A. M., and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 1/2 A. M. Methodist Episcopal—Rev. J. R. Mills. Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 9 1/2 A. M.

ASSOCIATIONS. Beaver River Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 963—Robert Hay, W. C. T., T. S. Wilson, W. S. Meets every Thursday evening. Excelsior Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 356—Samuel McCabe, N. G., Lydia E. Johnson, W. S. Meets every Thursday evening. Excelsior Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 450—Henry Lloyd, N. G., N. G. Taylor, Secretary. Meets every Monday evening. Endeavor Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 259—R. Coover. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. National Bank Beaver County—John Miller, President, Edward H. Coover, Cashier. Meets every Monday evening at 8 P. M. Excelsior Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 356—Samuel McCabe, N. G., Lydia E. Johnson, W. S. Meets every Thursday evening. Young Men's Literary Association—Joseph Bent, President; Birnam Platt, Secretary. Meets every Friday evening.

BEAVER FALLS. CHURCHES. Methodist Episcopal—Rev. W. B. Grace. Pastor. Services every Sunday at 10 1/2 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Baptist—Rev. J. F. Dyer, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 11 A. M., and 7 P. M. First meeting every Wednesday evening. Sunday school at 9 1/2 A. M. Presbyterian—Rev. Moorehead, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 11 A. M., and 7 1/2 P. M. Sunday School every Sunday at 9 1/2 o'clock at same place. T. Noble, Sun. United Presbyterian—Rev. J. I. Frazier, pastor. Services on Sabbath at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Sabbath School at 9 1/2 o'clock.

ASSOCIATIONS. Beaver Valley Lodge, A. Y. M., No. 476—Meets every second and fourth Sunday of each month. T. E. Beteman, W. M., J. L. Dawson, S. W., S. M. Hawkins, J. W. Henry Hill, Treasurer. Meets every Monday evening. Harmony Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 356—W. H. H. Lincoln, N. G., B. F. W. H. Grim, K. A. Tomlinson, B. F. Martineau, B. O. Patterson, Sec. Valley Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 482—W. H. H. Lincoln, N. G., James M. Nugent, Sec. Meets every Thursday evening at 7 1/2 o'clock. Excelsior Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 356—Samuel McCabe, N. G., Lydia E. Johnson, W. S. Meets every Thursday evening in Washington Hall, Ramsey's Main street. G. Alaman, R. S., A. Anderson, President.

PHILLIPSBURG. CHURCHES. Methodist Episcopal—Rev. Huddleston. Pastor. Services, 10 1/2 o'clock and evening, 6 1/2 o'clock Sunday School every Sabbath at 9 1/2 P. M. Presbyterian—Rev. Mr. Born. Pastor. Services every other Sabbath at 10 1/2 o'clock and Sabbath School at 9 1/2 o'clock. Lutheran—Rev. H. Kock. Pastor. Services every other Sabbath at 10 1/2 o'clock and Sabbath School at 9 1/2 o'clock. Protestant Episcopal—Rev. J. D. O'Connell. Pastor. Services in Chapel at 9 o'clock, and lecture in the evening at 7 o'clock. Sabbath School at 10 1/2 o'clock.

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