## *A Plucky Woman.*

A MAINE WIDOW ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

Just before dusk, one evening, a brown-faced and pleasant-looking woman with a short, well built figure and firm step fastened a lamp, contented-looking bay horse in front of the Boston tea store and tossed a molasses-jug out of her wagon. She wore a widow's veil and shawl.

'There,, said a gentleman, 'is one of the most wonderful women in the country—Mrs. Osgood, of Minot Centre, the woman-farmer.'

So when Mrs. Osgood came out of the store with her strong arms full of molasses-jug, salt-box and this and that, the *Journal* scribe began to ply his interrogations:

'How much hay will you cut this year?'

'Twelve or fifteen tons. I have cut about six tons already. I commenced mowing at seven o'clock this morning, and mowed most of the forenoon. I spread thirty-five common stacks of hay, and after dinner got in four good one-horse loads in season to get down here at four o'clock and market a load of berries.'

'Do you cut your hay with a machine or a scythe?'

'Both. I can mow either way. I have a one-horse mower.'

'Do you have any help?'

'Only what I get from the children. There's a girl of fourteen years and a boy of eleven years who help me a little.'

'Is the girl going to make a farmer?'

'I don't know. I want to make a farmer of her, but she says she don't like the idea very well.'

'How much of a farm have you?'

'I have now about forty acres. I have planted this year half an acre of onions, two acres of potatoes and three-fourths of an acre of beans, and sowed half an acre of oats. I have done all the work myself. I have run the farm five years, and I haven't paid out one cent, not one cent, for help, and I ain't going to, either,' with much emphasis.

'Last winter,' she continued, 'I went down in the woods and cut and teamed out ten cords of stove-wood."

'Does your farm pay well?'

'Yes; it's beginning to pay pretty well now. It was all run down when I came there and commenced work. It only cut hay enough for a cow and a horse. Now it cuts twelve tons. See the difference? I have dug out the rocks and leveled off the fields with my own hands, so I sha'n't be thrown out when I ride my mowing machine. I keep two cows, a horse and a lot of sheep, and there is a lot of hens running around.'

Mrs. Osgood then started old Dobbin for home. Here is a woman who finds time between planting her acres of potatoes and onions' mowing a dozen tons of hay, chopping ten cords of wood in snow knee-deep, and all the hard work of running a forty-acre farm, to take care of the milk of two cows, make butter and bread, and do all the kneading, cooking and sewing on buttons for a family of children, and yet has nothing to say about woman's wrongs or woman's rights.—*Lewiston Maine Journal*

IRON AND STEEL IN AMERICA.—Iron and steel industries are now active, owing to the railway revival. Should some of the Mexican or southwestern schemes be found to be premature the market may experience a reaction without, however, affecting seriously any solid enterprises. In February, 1880, iron rails reached $68, their highest point. The importations of 1880 were the largest in our history. Tin plates were for the first time inserted among iron and steel imports; but in the first four months of 1881 home production so carried it over foreign that the importations fell off one-half, being restricted by low prices and the ability to supply the home market with every thing but rails for immediate delivery. Spanish and Mediterranean ports supplied most of the imported ore, which it is claimed is of superior quality and is almost wholly used in the manufacture of Bessemer pig iron near the Atlantic Coast. Twenty-three States are making pig iron, while there are only eleven works making Bessemer steel ingots, and using twenty-six converters. The rails were first made here in 1867 to fill orders. It is probable that this year the number and capacity of these works will be insreased, and 1,250,000 net tons of rails will be produced, to be increased to a quarter of a million the year following.

The Thomas-Gilchrist basic process has not yet been practically introduced, though at two establishments its early use is probable. More Bessemer steel is now made here than in Great Britian. Street rails figure conspicuously in the production of the year, amounting to 16,894 tons, of which 8,055 tons were Bessemer. The Elmira Company uses silison tops. Nineteen States and one Territory made rails last year, the increase in this State being one-half the increase over the entire country. Blooms and billets from ore are made chiefly in the Champlain district of New York, and from scrap and pig iron in this State.

BIRD'S NEST IN A PULPIT.—At Murren in the Bernese Oberland, Switzerland, where there is not a very picturesque and well-appointed English church, the services of the present season commenced on the first Sunday after Trinity. The Rev. R. P. Bent, chaplain *pro tem*, writes that on going into the church on his arrival on Saturday, the 18th inst., he found that a pair of redstarts had built their nest on the book-ledge underneath the prayer-desk (used also as the pulpit) on one side of the chancel, and were then rearing a brood of four young ones. It seemed, he says, an almost literal fulfillment of the words of the psalmist in Psalm, lxxxiv. 3, for the nest is but a few feet from the altar. He adds that the very pretty nest, every particle of which must have been carried into the church by the parent birds, has become an object of great interest to both residents and visitors, and that the little fledglings of the sanctuary will probably have flown before the second Sunday of the services.—*The London Field.*

We hail a passing milk-wagon and ask the 'boy' if he has a quart of milk to spare. We get the milk and ask facetiously if it is cow's milk. 'Oh yes, sir.' And then with sweet simplicity, 'We keep the cows' milk separate from the other.'

It took $1000 to pay for the beef used in the Texas Penitentiary last month. If the lessees would put some of their guests to work at the business they were used to before they went to the Penitentiary, they would get all the beef they needed for nothing.—*Texas Siftings.*

## *The Philosophy of Swindling.*

It is not often that any one invents a new kind of swindle, but the career of the "professional polygamist" who was arrested a few days ago shows that the very oldest forms of imposition can by new "combinations", be put to such good use as to seem absolutely novel. Bigamy and forgery are both very old crimes but it is a new thing for any one to resort to bigamy as a basis for forgery, though when it is explained the thing seems simple enough. Women are, it is well-known, easily deceived by adventurers who have a good address, and consequently there is nothing remarkable in the fact that such a man should succeed in getting a wife in the first instance. But when this was once accomplished all the rest was plain sailing. The subsequent wives on discovering that they were not legally married, were only anxious to do all in their power to hush matters up, and their male relatives appear to have cordially seconded them. If it had been merely a question of bigamy they might not have done so; but in every case the swindler appears to have made use of his matrimonal schemes as a basis for pecuniary imposture, and in every case the self-love of the men he had imposed upon led them, after discovering the deception, to maintain a discreet silence. In this way the man was able to marry a dozen wives, and to maintain himself in great luxury for a number of years, although it was in the power of a multitude of people to have him locked up at any time. When his career of imposture was finally brought to a close he was an elderly man, and had lived so long without detection, and managed to have so much money always at command, that he had very nearly established a character and position for himself in the community upon which he preyed.

For swindles of this sort no country presents such a field as the United States, owing to the entire freedom of women from restraint of any kind. In England, or still more in France, it would have been impossible for a "polygamist" to make much headway with his victim without a pretty searching inquiry being made into his history and position by her friends. His plan of offering to "settle" a considerable sum of money upon his intended wife would necessarily have led to a request for an interview with his lawyer, and an exposure could hardly have been avoided. But American women's idea on the subject of marriage are very vague, and so far from their families being able to shield them from an adventurer, their sense of independence is so strong that they resent the idea of interference from any quarter, and, as a general thing, take the matter entirely out of their families hands. We are accustomed to look upon this liberty and independence as among the strong points of American women; but they have their bad side. In the case of women only half educated, as the majority of our women are, it makes them an easy prey to plausible adventurers.

The career of the "polygamist," however, would have been impossible if he had had only feminine weakness to work upon. He swindled a vast number of men as well, and their unwillingness to expose him seems to be one of the striking features of his case. We cannot help thinking that what lay at the root of this unwillingness must have beem not merely a shrinking from publicity and scandal, but also a positive sympathy with the skill, audacity and success of the swindler. In a commercial age the faculty of getting money is a quality highly prized, and the difference between an honest and a depraved ingenuity in this field is one which to a great many people looks rather conventional than otherwise. It is so common for people, for instance, in Wall street, who have been universally denounced as reprobates at one time, to turn up afterwards as "eminent financers" that any one may well be pardoned if he is considerably confused as to the dividing line between swindling and financiering, and if he inclines in his secret heart to the belief that there is no difference but success. This sort of feeling about business must affect every one's mind more or less. and probably produce a tendency to look upon all brilliant and ingenious swindles with a sympathetic eye. The sort of horror with which pecuniary dishonesty was once looked upon seems to have disappeared in great measure from the Anglo-Saxon world. It is met with now chiefly among "old-fashioned" or "conservative" people. With most of us amusement or curiosity is generally the feeling aroused by any new and startling swindle. It is hard to understand how the "polygamist" could have carried on his operations so long unmolested, unless a great many people thought rather well of them, or at any rate thought rather well of him for being clever enough to carry them on.

THE ABUSE OF POSTAL CARDS.—According to the advices from Washington, the Post Office authorities have determined to put a stop to the detestable practices of that contemptable class of persons who in their spite and malignity use the postal card and the mails for the purpose of annoying, insulting or injuring their acquaintances, neighbors or real or supposed enimies. Those who have recourse to this method of gratifying their hate and animosity are the hyenas of society, and it is a pity they can not be effectively punished by denying them the privileges of the Post Office altogether. In taking measures for their repression the Postmaster General will receive the thanks of the whole country—the thanks not only of the inhabitants of the large cities but of those of the smaller towns all over the continent. The smaller the community the larger the field of operations of these social assassins. One of the great objections made to the introduction of the postal card was the facility it was likely to afford to evil disposed persons to indulge their malicious propensities in this way. In devising a plan to defeat the purposes of these people Mr. James has effected a very wise reform. As soon as the contemplated order is issued postmasters will be required to destroy all offencive cards upon notice from the person to whom they are addressed, so that a repetition of the annoyance of being made the recipient of one will be hardly possible. The officer either at the point of mailing or at the point of delivery, or both, may be notified, it is understood, by the aggrieved party, and they will thereupon exercise the utmost vigilance in excluding the offensive missive from the mails. The mission of the malicious postal card fiend is very nearly at an end.—*N. P. Herald.*

## *Along the Northern Pacific.*

DULUTH, Minn., Aug. 29th, 1881.

EDITOR REPUBLICAN:—The main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad has now been built 700 miles west from Duluth, the eastern terminus. Passing in nearly a direct line through northern Minnesota and Dakota, the completed road has reached the Yellowstone at Glendive, and is now advancing rapidly through eastern Montana. The tide of emigration keeps pace with the railroad. It is not improbable that the Population of Dakota will double this year, arriving at a total of 300,000.

Duluth, a town of 5000 or 6000 inhabitants at the head of lake navigation, is the proper transfer point of Northern Pacific freight bound east. The greater facilities of Milwaukee and Chicago and the influence of their large capitalists now divert much of this traffic to those cities. With the increasing development of the North-west and the constructions of competing roads, some of which are already projected, this evil will be obviated. Two grain elevators, of 1,600,000 bushels combined capacity, are now in operation. A third, of 1,000,000 bushels capacity, is in course of construction. The pine and cedar forests bounding upon Lake Superior reach north and west more than 100 miles. At Duluth a half dozen large saw mills are running constantly. Some of the lumber is used in the village for building purposes, but by far the greater part is shipped upon barges and sent down the lakes.

Leaving Duluth the road passes along the north bank of the St. Louis river 22 miles, to Thomson. On the way are the little towns of Oneota, Spirit Lake and Fond du Lac. The scenery is grand. Above, at the north, are huge masses of rock; south, the eye rests upon the St. Louis, in some places hundreds of feet below, winding along its stony bed and leaping from one rock level to another as if hastening to mingle its waters with Superior. The water power here is equal to any in the United States and, at no remote day, will be utilized.

One mile west of Thomson is the junction of the Northern Pacific and the St. Paul and Duluth road. For more than a hundred miles west the former continues its course through the pine land. The St. Louis left behind, the picturesque feature of the country is the seemingly endless succession of lakes, none of them large and some but tiny specks in the all-enveloping forest. Having stopped at a half dozen more stations, where red men and white are to be found in equal proportions, we reach Brainerd, a growing town of 2500 inhabitants, situated upon the east bank of the Mississippi. It is 114 miles from Duluth, and the point at which the St. Paul division of the Northern Pacific joins the main line. On every side is the dense woodland, penetrating even into the town itself. The Mississippi is 200—perhaps 300—feet wide at Brainerd. Some of the N. P. car shops are located here. There is also a steam saw mill and plaining mills. Thirty or thirty-five miles west of Brainerd the forest disappears. Fifty miles farther on, having passed by several small hamlets varying in population from one to three hundred, we find Detroit City, a town of about 800 inhabitants. It is in the wheat country and is one of the most prosperous of the smaller towns. Eight miles east of the Red River of the North is Glyndon, situated at the junction of the Northern Pacific and the St. Paul; Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroads. It has a population of about 800, but no immediate prospect of becoming a great city. The Red River reached we find two towns which promise to be cities at an early day. They are Moorhead on the east side, in Minnesota; and Fargo just beyond, in Dokata. Combined, (for naturally they constitute but one town, being seperated only by the narrow bed of the Red River here hardly more than 100 feet in width) they have a population of 6000. Every industry is represented and all things betoken a most prosperous future. This is the natural centre of the wheat belt of north-western Minnesota and northern Dakota. This region proved itself superior to all others in the United States for the growing of wheat. In both the quality and the quantity, of the yield it excels. The Red River, which flows north into Manitoba and empties into Lake Winnipeg, is navigable from a point 30 miles south of Fargo to its mouth. The soil is black and destitute of stone. Save the sinuous course of the river, there is little of the picturesque to be noticed here. A hundred or more miles in every direction the ground is entirely level. These portions of Minnesota and Dakota, while not free from surface water in the spring time, have yet experienced no serious difficulty from that cause. There is no reasonable probability of such an event. In this particular they are preferable for settlement to the lands in the southern parts of the state and territory.

Beyond Fargo a hundred miles is Jamestown. At the end of another hundred, on the east bank of the Missouri, is Bismarck and two hundred and twenty miles further west is Glendive, on the Yellowstone. These points, however, were not visited by your correspondent. Hence this will be the end of his narative.

G. W. K.

### *A Card.*

We take great pleasure in calling the attention of our friends and customers to Dr. Bosanko's Cough and Lung Syrup which is perfectly harmless, pleasant to the taste, will not nauseate, and gives relief almost instantly. It matters not how severe your Cough may be, how many cough medicines you have tried, or how many physicians you have consulted, the tonic, soothing and healing properties of this medicine will loosen it and assist the Throat and Lungs to expel the offending matter, leaving them in a healthy condition, free from irritation, and the air passages clear, besides invigorating and strengthening the general system. Price 50 cents. For the positive cure of Consumption, Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Dry Hacking Cough, Loss of Voice, Irritation of the Throat, Soreness of the Chest, Pains in the Lungs, Spitting of Blood, Croup, Influenza, Whooping Cough, and Lung Fever, we recommend this medicine above all others.

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