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^{VIII}
*A pleasant method of paying
social debts for bachelors*

1.

The current St. Paul production of Martha gives bachelors of that city a nice opportunity to pay off accumulated social obligations. The Minneapolis Tribune, in 1883, pointed the way.

"Opera parties are. . . elaborate and formal affairs. For the most formal, the dinner hour is six o'clock, and the dinner is given at some fashionable hotel or restaurant, or in the house of some friend of the host. On leaving the table, the party proceeds to the opera in carriages furnished by the host, and are shown to the private box which has been reserved for their use. After the opera. . . is over, the guests return to the dinner-room for refreshments.

"A less formal affair includes only a supper after the opera. . . If given by a bachelor, he first selects a matron, and then calls on his intended guests, inviting them in person, having first asked the consent of the mother that the young lady may be his guest, naming the matron who is to chaperon the ladies, and the gentlemen who will be present.

"The ladies proceed to the place appointed for the dinner in their own carriages, attended by father or brother, or in absence of these by a waiting woman. The carriage with the attendant is introduced to return to the same place at the hour of departure, usually half past twelve. The host assigns to each gentleman the lady whom he is to attend to dinner and whose special escort he is to be during the remainder of the evening. The carriages of the host convey the guests to and from the opera.

"After the refreshments, the party separate, each gentleman attending the lady whose escort he is to her carriage. If a waiting woman has arrived with it, he attends her home, but if her father or brother has come to attend her home his duty has ended when she has reached her conveyance.

"Soon after the party, the host calls upon the mother and daughter to thank them for the pleasure the presence of his lady guest gave him. . . These affairs, while

they lack the charm of domestic hospitality. . . furnish to bachelors of means a pleasant method of paying social debts."

VIII

*J. M. Goodhue Tells his Minn. Pioneer
readers about the new little town.
(St. Paul)*

The first hundred years are the hardest - for a city as well as a man. But when the first citizens of a city have their feet on the ground and their eyes on the future, their neighbors stop to marvel. St. Paul's first editor, James Madison Goodhue, found Galena marveling at the miracle of the new little town on the upper river and told his Minnesota Pioneer readers about it on May 19, 1849.

"Every man you meet wants to hear from St. Paul. How old is it? how long is it? how does it look? what are wages? what are rents? what will sustain the business of the town? . . .

"Our answers are - St. Paul, except as a little old French trading post, is no years old - the town is about as large as a mob on the increase - it looks as if the seed for a multitude of tenements had been scattered yesterday upon a bed of guano and had sprouted up into cabins and stores and sheds and warehouses, fresh from the saw mill, since the last sun shone . . . As for wages, why at St. Paul as everywhere else, the . . . laborer gets all he can - being an amount probably bearing some proportion to the amount of labor performed.

"Any man who is really in earnest about it, except a gravedigger, can find plenty of work to do in St. Paul, and a chance to invest all his earnings in real estate which will soon double in value. As for rents, like Rachael's children, they are not. Let no man who wants a shelter over his head think of staying in St. Paul beyond the time of a visit without being prepared to build something of a house, if it be nothing but a dry-goods box with a roof over it. Fine lumber delivered will cost from \$13 to \$15 per thousand.

"As for the question, what is to sustain the business of St. Paul, we answer. . . It creates itself, naturally and necessarily, from its geographical position. . . What are town lots worth? Well, in my humble judgment, they are worth all they can be sold for. . .

"There are men. . . capable of planning and executing as comprehensive plans for the growth and advancement of Minnesota as the longest headed of those shrewd Bostonians who. . . ensnared. . . the trade of the St. Lawrence and the trade of the great lakes, while New York was quietly snoozing on the banks of the Hudson. . . When we left St. Paul the other day, there was only one paper there - the PIONEER; perhaps there are twenty there now. . .

"In conclusion, we will advise no person to go (to St. Paul). Men of the right stamp will always find the right spots; and men of the right nerve will stay in them and flourish. . ."

Fishing in Minnesota & Lake Como

Since the first of the month, Minnesota fishermen have been casting their bait and their hopes upon the waters. Tonight comes the annual Dispatch-Pioneer Press Fishermen's party at the auditorium, when one may expect to hear about some of the 1941 whoppers "that got away."

As far back as 1866, the Pioneer was boosting the recreational lures of the state. It said: "Minnesota is not only the healthiest and most productive country in the world, but it is diversified with the most beautiful landscape scenery, contains within its limits a greater number and prettier lakes, Geneva and Como to the contrary notwithstanding - we don't mean the Como that we have - than the same area of the earth's surface to be found anywhere else.

"As to the item of fresh water fishing, the world can't beat it. Every stream is full of trout and every lake teeming with pickerel, bass and perch. A young lady of this city caught at Lake Como, just out of the city limits, the other day, a pickerel weighing 18 pounds, and we have been informed that another fish of the same species was caught there only a week or two since which weighed $22\frac{1}{2}$ pounds."

Many years before, in 1850, the Pioneer had something else to say about the state's fish. "There is a kind of perch about the size and quality of the brook trout caught in great abundance now through holes in the ice, in most of our lakes, with small hooks baited."

Speckled trout by the bushel! Pioneer, May 13, 1852: "Lieut. M'Kinney, formerly. . . a resident of our Territory, is spending a few days here with Mr. Adams, of Burlington, Iowa, in trout fishing. They brought in a bushel or two of speckled trout one day last week, and are now spreading their temptations along Rush river."

Anglers at tonight's party may not believe it of Lake Como. But the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat printed the item in 1860, thus: "Two gentlemen from the International Hotel caught in Lake Como in the space of two hours, on Monday afternoon last, one

hundred and eighty-four fish."

The fishermen may, however, if they will admit it, agree with a Mill City paragraph of ten years later. "Mrs. Gill, a guest at Hotel St. Louis, succeeded in capturing a nine and one-half pound pickerel and a four and one-half pound bass yesterday. Very good for feminine fishing, but women have been known to land a hundred and fifty pound bull-head, with diamond shirt studs, the first throw."

VIII
Norway's Independence Day
celebrated since 1869.

4.

Although their mother country suffers in alien bondage, Norwegians the world over today will observe its national holiday. 1941's Syttende Mai is no occasion for joyful celebration, but for Norsemen at home and the descendants of Norsemen abroad it will be a time for renewed faith in the restoration of Norway to its proud position among the nations of the earth.

The day has special significance here, where Scandinavia has contributed so much of its best to the building of the state. And annals show that it has been a big day in Minnesota since the Norwegians first became a part of the pioneer community.

In 1869, Nordisk Folkeblad, published in Minneapolis, said of the celebration there: "Norway's Independence Day was celebrated last Monday evening by the local Scandinavian Society in their quarters. Mr. Sneedorff Christensen, the editor, opened the succession of speeches with a reminder of the significance of the day, expressing a wish for a long-lived Norwegian freedom. . ."

In 1870, a writer in the English press explained: "The 17th of May, 1814, was the day on which Norway was separated from Denmark. . . It is to Norwegians what the 4th of July is to Americans."

Six years later, according to the Norwegian newspaper, Budstikken, Northfield outdid itself in making the day a gala event. "The celebration began at 1 P.M. with a parade from Kyllø's Hall to a place outside the town, where a speakers' platform had been erected and other preparations had been made. Here the procession was received and greeted by Mayor Nutting. . . In the evening, the celebrants withdrew to Kyllø's Hall, where a grand ball was being held. . . At 12 midnight, the crowd gathered at the Metropolitan Hall for a midnight dinner."

In 1878, Budstikken again commented at length on the meaning of the anniversary. "There is hardly a Norwegian-born man in this country who has not a bright

memory from the home country in connection with May 17. As a child, jubilantly greeting the flag, the gun salutes and the songs; or as an adult, perhaps, carried along with the little ones' enthusiasm and surely joining in their joy, he has become accustomed to look upon this day as a day of happy memories and of bright hopes. . . a symbol of liberty . . . a password of freedom and a promise of future development on the foundation of free laws and institutions. . ."

"Old Betz" shows up after each obituary except the last one

If Old Bets had known about Mark Twain, she might have said with him that reports of her death were greatly exaggerated. One of ^{St. Paul's} Minnesota's many "characters," this perennial Sioux personage was shuffled off her mortal coil on several occasions by the early press. But she showed up after each obituary. Except the last one. That was in 1873.

"Old Betsey" had this ad in the St. Paul Chronicle & Register in '50: "The subscriber would respectfully announce that, having procured from His Majesty Little Crow a license to keep a ferry, she is now prepared to carry passengers at the rates fixed by law, and for as much more as the public choose to give her."

St. Paul Press, '63: "All our old settlers who were acquainted with 'Old Bets' . . . will regret to learn that the amiable old aborigine departed this life on the boat at or near St. Joseph, Missouri, while on the way up the river. . ."

The comeback, two years later: "'Old Bets' still lives, the oft repeated report of her demise to the contrary notwithstanding. She made her appearance on our streets yesterday, with the dust of the plains upon her moccasins."

Same St. Paul Press, 1867: "'Old Betz' . . . was in the city yesterday. . . apparently as well and hearty as ever. . . While all agree that she is over 100 years old, the early settlers say that. . . about forty years ago, she claimed to be, and likely was, 100 years old."

Another fadeout. Minneapolis Tribune, 1871: "'Old Betz', the celebrated squaw, who has been one of the chief attractions to tourists and strangers in St. Paul for a long number of years past, died at Mendota on Saturday last."

Back on the job again, a week later: "'Poor, lone old Betz' is around again, smiling as blandly as ever. She feels flattered at the obituary notices published over her untimely demise by energetic reporters." And an added pat on the back next day by the Tribune: "'Ancient Elizabeth' - she of the land of the Dakotas - who was most unjustly killed by the reporters of the St. Paul papers. . . is again on the move about

the streets. . . levying her usual tax of a 'cashpoppe' on the people. She carries her hundred years with unusual dignity. . ."

Sober-minded history states that Aza-Ya-Man-Ka-Wan, Old Bets, died in Mendota on May 1, 1873, aged 85 years.

A word from Wilkins County

There were only 300 voters in Wilkin county back in 1873, when "X.X.X." took his pen in hand for the St. Paul Daily Press. He started vigorously: "A word from Wilkin county, if you please, Mr. Editor. Let it be known that there is such a county within the limits of Minnesota."

The Breckenridge correspondent continued: "We want settlers, good men who can get along without kid gloves, men who do not consider a cigar a necessity and loafing an institution to be admired. Women, too, that can put up with the necessary inconveniences of a frontier life. . . And for those who want good farming land at government prices, there is an abundant supply. . .

"To a rich, fertile soil, consisting of a deep black loam, is added good water and an unusual quantity of prairie lands. . . There are about 300 voters in the county, all of whom are opening up farms as rapidly as they can. . .

"Breckenridge, the county seat. . . is situated at the junction of the Bois des Sioux and the Red River of the North. It is the head of navigation, and one of the most beautiful town sites in the Red River valley. There are three dry goods stores, two hotels, and one saloon - besides dwelling houses and other buildings. The improvements for this year are a school house, grain house, and bridge. . . Over 300 flat-boats were built at Breckenridge last year, loaded and floated down to Fort Gerry, also one steamboat (the Dakota) and two barges. This year there have already been some 200 flat-boats, and by the 15th (of August) the new steamboat will start for Dayton. . .

"Breckenridge boasts of a population of about 200 inhabitants, all of whom are energetic, wide-awake people. . . School will start about the middle of September, the first in the city and, I might say, the first in the county.

"We invite parties in search of new homes to come and take a look at our place and the lands in our vicinity, and I believe that they will be well repaid for

the trouble, and feel satisfied that they could do no better and might do worse elsewhere."

*Take This Paper! The
Watab Reveille.*

Only ten years old in 1851, St. Paul was working overtime at the strenuous business of becoming a city. Pushing back the frontier was a task made for serious-minded men, and the newspapers of the period reflected the tough optimism of the determined builders who subscribed to them. Still, there was room for a satiric journal, the Watab Reveille.

Excerpts from a sheet which didn't live long but lived with a flourish:

"TAKE THIS PAPER. - 'Tis sweet on winter's night at home, to sit by fire and tapers; but ah! it is a wiser thing, by far, to read this paper. -- Won't you take the paper? Can't you take the paper? The joys of heart are little worth, unless you take this paper. -- Maidens waiting lovers true, you must take the paper. Swains who would not idly woo, you must take the paper. -- Won't you take the paper? Can't you take the paper? Love's joys below you'll never know, unless you take this paper."

"WANTED. - At this office, a small boy about 25 or 40 years of age for CARRIER. He must be fast enough to beat 'OLD GO SLOW' the carrier of the Chronicle & Register, who on his last heat did very easily 240 over a bad road."

"\$5 REWARD! - THE above reward will be paid by the advertiser to any person who will inform him of the name of the physician in St. Louis who advises wives for \$25 that the climate of Minnesota will certainly kill them. Apply at the office of the Watab Reveille."

"OUR POET'S CORNER. - Aspirants for poetic fame are daily pouring in upon us their lucubrations, which we are grieved in being compelled to consign to our barrel. The following we have selected as a gem from the pile. . . one of twenty mortal stanzas, by an old maid, eulogizing the virtues of a favorite cow, run over and killed by the

Watab railroad car:

Long in her sides, bright in her eyes,
Short in her legs, thin in her thighs;
Big in her ribs, wide in her pins;
Full in her bosom, sharp in her shins;
Long in her face, fine in her tail,
And never deficient in filling the pail."

VIII
*Minnesota's first professionally acted
drama.* 8.

Minnesota saw its first professionally acted drama on the evening of Tuesday, August 12, 1851. The players were Placide's New Orleans Variety Company, who came upriver to entertain the thousand-odd citizens of St. Paul. The place was Mazourka Hall, a two story building at Third and Exchange streets.

Editor Goodhue and the Pioneer welcomed the troupe enthusiastically. George Holland, the manager and leading man, was described as "a wonderfully Protean actor, whose versatility is such that he alone amounts to a dramatic company." The Minnesota Democrat also applauded the group as "the best we have seen outside of a large city. They have crowded houses every night since their performance commenced. Their exceedingly amusing entertainments are calculated to instruct as well as please."

The play was the thing during the short engagement of Placide's Varieties. Nobody minded the climb of one flight to the hall over Elfelt's dry goods and grocery store. The admission was reasonable enough at fifty cents for adults and twenty-five for children under twelve years. The plays were popular pieces chosen to please - Slasher and Crasher, The Day After the Fair, The Serious Family, The New Footman, The Post of Honor, Turning the Tables, Poor Pillicoddy, Paul Prey, Swiss Cottage, My Precious Betsey. When an occasional Indian strayed into the hall to watch the curious doings of his white brothers, he probably did not spoil the audience's fun.

The company closed with its performance of August 23. Said the Pioneer: "The dramatic company completed their twelfth and last night on Saturday at Mazourka Hall - house crowded to suffocation. We hope to see them all back again sometime." Goodhue went farther in his speculations. "With a large resident population like ours," he wrote, "and with such accession of visitors as we shall soon have in multitudes, to pass the summers in our town, it is scarcely to be doubted that in a year or two we shall require, and can well support, a regular theatre in St. Paul."

The next year, in May, Mazourka Hall had another company of professional

actors, the Langrishe and Atwater Dramatic Company; and St. Paul playgoers were treated to a fine repertory - The Stranger, All That Glitters Is Not Gold, Love, Law and Physic, The Lady of Lyons, His Last Legs, and Charles II, and The Bandit Chief.

*Old Pioneer office moved to
a lot in Kittson's addition.*

"We understand that Mayor Prince is about removing the old Pioneer office, on the corner of Third and Jackson streets, to a lot in Kittson's addition. . . The old building has some interesting associations connected with its early history, and we should be glad if some old settler would detail them to us for publication." This was an item in the Pioneer & Democrat of May 4, 1861.

An old pioneer came through with "some interesting associations," which were published in the St. Paul Press of May 29. The building was erected in 1850, he said, "under the superintendence of Maj. Wm. H. Forbes, at that time in charge of the 'Sioux Outfit,' Chas. Bazil being the contractor and builder. Major Forbes kept his store for several years on the ground floor. . . while in the second story was located the business of the 'Minnesota Outfit,' under the charge of our late esteemed fellow-citizen, Dr. Chas. W. Borup. Here also was established the first banking house in Minnesota, that of Borup & Oakes. . .

"On the night of the first of May, 1853, a small band of Chippewa warriors, seeking the blood of their ancient enemies, the Sioux, arrived within the limits of St. Paul and secreted themselves in the lower part of the town. About seven o'clock the next morning, they discovered two or three canoe-loads of Sioux, mostly women, passing up the river from Kaposia village. The Chippewas laid in wait until the Sioux landed and, as was their custom, repaired to Forbes' store. They then rushed boldly into the street in front of the store, and fired into it, indiscriminately endangering the lives of whites and Indians there congregated at the time. A Sioux squaw. . . was shot dead while in the act of addressing one of the clerks. The Chippewas fled the city without any fire being returned upon them, or without any of them being captured."

In the excitement that followed, so the story runs, Governor Ramsey led "such of the citizens as could speedily be armed and mounted" in a fruitless search for the "daring red rascals." It was a detachment of dragoons called out from Fort Snelling

under the command of Lieutenant Magruder who ran the Chippewa to earth in the vicinity of Taylor's Falls. One of the Chippewa was captured and another shot. "A Sioux guide who accompanied the troops was allowed to scalp the dead Chippewa," the old settler recalled, "and the scalp was kept on exhibition in Lieut. Magruder's quarters at Fort Snelling. . ."

The incident did not quite end there, according to the Press writer. "The people of Taylor's Falls. . . in a public meeting loudly condemned the action of Lieut. Magruder. . . and we had a Chippewa and Sioux war of words between the towns for some weeks."

War is a serious business, and the Civil War was taken seriously in Minnesota. But all the news reports of 1861 were not grim. Indeed, on August 9, the St. Paul Press found space for a little military comedy under the heading "AN INCIDENT OF THE BATTLE AT BULL'S RUN."

"Adjutant Gen. Sanborn relates that when the Minnesota Regiment was drawn up in line of battle opposite to the Mississippi Regiment, the wagon master of the Minnesota Regiment, our old friend, Anson Northup, was in the ranks with musket in hand. The Regiment practicing the Zouave drill, in which Ans. is not very proficient, fell flat on the ground after the first round - every man killed as Northup thought. Resolved to have another crack at the rebels, Northup reloaded his musket, and just after he fired, up jumped his comrades and fired another round, as much to Northup's surprise, he said, as if so many dead men had come out of their graves."

In April of the same year, another item in the Pioneer & Democrat reflected one of the less mournful aspects of the struggle. "SECESSED. - Some excitement was produced on the levee Sunday morning by the departure for Montgomery of our little Palmetto friend, Major J. H. Ingraham, Adjutant of the twenty-third regiment of Minnesota Militia. We understand that he, some time since, applied for a commission in the Confederate army and was directed to report himself immediately to L. C. Walker, Secretary of War. At the time he went aboard the boat, he was entirely unarmed. . . the Captain, however, took the precaution to put him in a stateroom lined with tin, so that there could be no danger of the boat catching fire. It was noted that he didn't take his seat at the table at dinner, and shortly afterwards he was found making a hearty meal from the flues under the boilers. We are sorry to lose the Major. There was something in his intense loyalty to his native state that commanded our admiration. It was honest, hearty and natural."

There are those who like to observe that history repeats itself. For them, this

note from the Stillwater Gazette of January 23, 1878: "Turkey's goose is about being cooked on the Balkan range."

*Exhibits at the fair
1857 before Minnesota became a state*

It was before Minnesota had a state fair. Because there was no state of Minnesota in 1857. But there was a territorial fair that year, held in St. Paul. On October 15, the Pioneer-Democrat reviewed the exhibits.

"M. S. Wilkinson of St. Paul had an exhibit of cutters and sleighs. One of the finest cutters was valued at \$250. A very attractive buggy indicated the superior work that can be turned out by Mr. Wilkinson. Sets of single and double harness, entered by Mr. Levoy of this city, indicated elegant workmanship and good taste. A patent horse collar, exhibited by S. Snow of Minneapolis, appears to be a great improvement on the old, unwieldy and cumbrous stuffed collar of present use.

"Two very fine specimens of graining in oak were exhibited by Mr. John Healy and were much admired.

"Several portraits, among them a very correct likeness of Gov. Medary, were on exhibition from the studio of Mr. T. H. Healy, and were good specimens of that description of painting.

"P. P. Furber, Esq. exhibited a specimen of sorghum molasses, made from sugar cane grown upon the Poor Farm. He estimates that 150 gallons may be made from the produce of one acre of sugar cane. The syrup had a rather pleasant flavor. . .

"Mr. H. H. Williams, of Shakopee, who is cultivating a farm on the bottom opposite the town, yesterday morning placed on exhibition samples of corn and potatoes, which were acknowledged by all who saw them to be the most superior articles on the fair ground; the corn was undoubtedly superior to any ever exhibited, considering the largeness of the ears and grains, and evenness of the samples. Mr. Williams says it was planted on the 15th of June and the whole ten acres will average 75 bushels to the acre. . .

"Neshannock potatoes, exhibited by Mr. Williams, were also very fine, and both them and the corn would have taken the first premiums if entered at the proper time.

"There was no furniture on exhibition except fine chairs, and they were only

exhibited to show some handiwork in embroidery on the cushions. The work on four of them was from the hands of Miss Harriet E. Bishop, the fair author of Floral Homes, and the other by Mrs. E. C. Belote of the Merchant's Hotel. . ."

*First professionally acted drama
seen in St. Paul. August 12, 1851*

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George Holland, the manager and leading man, achieved lasting fame some years later in an episode which he was not able to include in his scrapbook of personal notices. It was his body which the rector of a fashionable Fifth Avenue church in New York refused to receive for burial in December, 1870, advising Holland's friends that "the little church around the corner" might be willing to conduct funeral services for an actor. The less fashionable rector was willing, and the Little Church Around the Corner, the actor's church, is now a Manhattan Landmark.

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*Humorous quips from The
scrapbook.*

Archbishop Ireland's father was sprinting at 74 - Minneapolis won five cock fights out of seven from St. Paul - public morals were so good there was nothing for the police court to do - and citizens clamored for a place to take a bath.

St. Paul annals, read in retrospect, are full of fun. Samples:

1859 - "The largest and most expensive hog pen in the country is in St. Paul, and cost \$20,000. We mean the Robert street sewer, which is now used for that purpose. It answers admirably for fattening pork. St. Paul against the world! Our city is now the porkopolis of the great northwest."

1859 - "Judge Isaac Atwater of St. Anthony lectured before the Mercantile Library association at the First Presbyterian church on Third street. The burden of it was that Cuba is a great and fine country and worth stealing; it is hopeless to expect Spain to sell it. Therefore, we must steal it. Nice principles for a judge of the Supreme Court of Minnesota to be advocating!"

1864 - "Police court. No business. An ornamental institution. It should be abolished. Sudden growth of morality in the city. Esquire Gibbs has had only three cases during this whole month. Two of these were dead head cases; only \$5 has been received so far this year. We suggest to the City Council whether it would not be well to abolish an institution that has become entirely useless, and allow moral suasion to do the rest."

1868 - "Information has been received from Washington that Mr. O. E. Dogberry of this city can have a patent upon his celebrated double-end-twisted-up-and-down-three-ply foot bath, if he is willing to pay the regular patent office fees."

1869 - "A large crowd was in attendance at Armory Hall. . . at the opening exhibition of velocipedes. . . It was a novel and withal an amusing sight. Several . . . soon got the hang of the thing that they managed it quite well before the day

was over."

1869 - "This city has always been destitute of suitable accommodations for bathing. Weary travelers upon arriving at the end of a journey almost invariably inquire where a good bath can be had. True, the International Hotel did have some limited accommodations, but since its destruction there is no place to go. . . Will not some of our enterprising citizens act upon this suggestion and erect a bathhouse the coming summer?"

1878 - "Richard Ireland, father of Bishop Ireland, and who is aged 74 years, has arranged a running match with Dr. Steele, a brother of Hon. Franklin Steele, and who is 68 years of age. The match is for \$25 a side."

1879 - "A cock main was held in this city yesterday between Minneapolis and St. Paul birds. There were seven battles, Minneapolis winning five. The stakes were \$20 a side and about fifty persons. . . were present."

1879 - "William Boeckler, a young man in St. Luke's hospital. . . very much reduced from hemorrhages, had six ounces of sheep's blood transfused in his veins on Saturday and shows very marked improvement."

*Red Wing, Marshall, St. Peter
back in 1873 & 74.*

Suppose one could pick up an oldtime mirror and, looking into it, see the oldtime reflection of oneself. Or suppose a town could. Communities, even more perhaps than individuals, might hardly recognize themselves. For instance, Red Wing, thus described in the St. Paul Press in 1874:

"Red Wing is said to present a very lively appearance just now. New buildings are being erected in all parts of the city. Excavations, the removal of old buildings, and other operations preparatory to the erection of the new Grand hotel on the corner of Main and Bush streets are being energetically carried on. The hotel is to be built of brick, three stories high, and its dimensions 65 by 130 feet. . . The cost of the building alone is estimated at \$35,000. Two large livery stables (one four stories high and correspondingly large otherwise) are in course of erection, as are other public buildings, including an opera house and postoffice."

The Press added that the wheat to be shipped from Red Wing that year was estimated at 1,500,000 bushels, commenting: "Expansion of currency produced by such causes is supposed to be more healthful than by congressional legislation."

LeSueur looked pretty good that year, too, when its Sentinel said:

"The fact was noted last week that Le Sueur was one of the few towns in this state and the west whose business channels were not at any time clogged for want of money since the financial panic of last autumn. . . It may now be added that we have one firm in Le Sueur who deal in general merchandise who have sold more goods the past year than any similar retail house in the state outside of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The sales of this firm have exceeded half a million dollars the past ten years, and have steadily increased from year to year."

The year before, in 1873, the St. Paul Dispatch gave a pat on the head

to young Marshall. "The town of Marshall, started a year ago, has twelve stores, three blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, three lumber yards, two hotels, one livery stable, one printing office, a grist mill and churches, a schoolhouse, and residences enough to number one hundred buildings."

In the same issue, the Dispatch said: "The population of St. Peter figures up to 3,217, and a mathematical calculation evolves that it will be 8,500 in ten years."

*Editors of early newspapers take
anything in lieu of cash for subscriptions.*

The stories about pioneer editors who had to take anything handy in lieu of cash for subscriptions are founded in fact. Nor are they exaggerated, as the annals show. Some of the editors came out frankly and bid for whatever they could get.

The Stillwater Gazette, 1876, announced: "If any of our subscribers who are a little behind in their payments on subscriptions should find themselves possessed of more potatoes, turnips, onions, cabbages, beets, parsnips, tomatoes, cranberries, beans, etc., than they know what to do with. . . we would gently insinuate to them that we are not opposed on principle to a vegetarian diet."

Striking the same chord, the Anoka Press in 1871 offered to "take any of the following articles on subscription: Butter, beef, beans, CASH, chickens, dry wood, eggs, fat pigs, good flour, hams, ink, jury certificates, lard, mutton, olive oil, potatoes, quails, rutabagas, road district orders, shirts, venison, yarn, barley, wheat, oats, rye, or, if nothing else can be spared, paper rags."

In 1875, the Taylor's Falls Journal hinted broadly: "Turkeys and chickens are plentiful in the market but are altogether beyond the reach of newspapermen. Delinquent subscribers never raise turkeys!"

All in all, the editor's chair was not an easy one. Editor James Goodhue had arrived at that conclusion years before, and on Christmas day, 1851, he voiced his opinion in the Minnesota Pioneer:

"EXPRESS OF ST. ANTHONY. - This spirited journal, we learn, will soon pass again into the entire editorial control of its first editor, Mr. Atwater. The able management of a newspaper there may not put any cash in the pocket of the editor - may not bring him even the chilling thanks of the people there; but will really entitle him to the very highest regard and the warmest and most cordial approbation of the whole town. A village without an efficient press is like a bell without a

clapper, a clock without a pendulum, a watch without a mainspring. But it is generally the fortune of an editor to be cheated without mercy, cursed without cause, abused without stint, fighting and battling on for the advancement and welfare of his town and his country, up early and late, considering all subjects, discussing all topics, advocating all improvements, always patiently enduring the laborious round of his duties until Death strikes him down and strips off his harness."

*John Citizen complains to Editor
of trip to La Crosse by stage coach.*

The Mail Bag of today's Pioneer Press is an old, old institution. Not even a civil war could hold John Citizen in check, when he felt moved to take up his pen and write. And he wrote about much the same sort of things as his 1941 successor. This, for example, in the Minnesota Pioneer of January 31, 1863.

"To the Editor of the Pioneer:

"No more unhappy infliction could be imposed upon one's worst enemy than a general shaking up over one hundred and sixty miles in a cramped, screeching, lumbering wagon, called nowadays a stage coach. Had Moses touched old Pharaoh with the like experience, his Egyptian Majesty would have cried out in utter despair, 'Wayward brickmakers, depart in peace!' It is wonderful. . .

"The stage coach remains the curse of every traveler, and stage proprietors still stick most persistently to the old adage, 'Never too full to take on another passenger.'

"On the trip to La Crosse there were nine passengers inside and one on the outside - tangled up thus like a skein of yarn, they were jolted up and down for thirty long weary hours. The fare is ten dollars - the meals two dollars extra.

"The contract of the ticket is to land you at the cars. Instead, however, your baggage is taken to a little out-of-the-way tavern, and you are compelled to pay an extra quarter to get to the cars.

"I would suggest to the stage owners that they prohibit some of their drivers from using such outrageous profanity in the presence of ladies. If there is any 'cussing' the passengers have the better right to do it.

"Is there any necessity for the ladies traveling with a dry goods store and two or three millinery shops about their person? How about their adopting some neat, warm and close fitting traveling dress, so that masculines may not be

smothered to death in stage coach and railroad car with hoop-skirts and all the
et ceteras of modern toilet.

ALVA."

Decoration Day

The columns of the Blue and the Gray have almost disappeared. So, too, have the old passions that created those columns. Springfield, Illinois and Stratford, Virginia are now shrines of a united nation; and when we honor today the country's war dead, we pay our respects to all of them, blue, gray and khaki, partners in the great American memory.

While Appomattox was still fresh in Minnesota minds, the state began annual decoration of the graves of its Union dead. Then on May 30, 1870, the Twin Cities observed the day formally with impressive ceremonies. "Decoration Day was a grand occasion in St. Paul," the press reported. "Their new post of the G.A.R. devoted themselves. . . to. . . making a general display, and were successful. The Fire Dept., state and city officers, Sodality band, Pioneer Rifles, German Benefit Society, L'Union Francaise, Father Matthew Society, and boys of the German, Assumption and Catholic schools, had places in the procession. . . Fine addresses were made by Capt. Henry Castle, Post Commander of the G.A.R.. . Col. E. A. Calkins of the Pioneer, Hon. C. K. Davis; Col. J. Ham Davidson recited a poem and Father Ireland made appropriate remarks. The procession visited the Oakland, Catholic and Lutheran cemeteries, decorating a large number of graves."

In Minneapolis, the procession "more than two miles long. . . marched to slow music to the cemetery gate. The members of the G.A.R. at the head were received at the gate by ladies bearing wreaths and flowers, which were given to each soldier of the G.A.R. and the ex-soldiers following. . . A beautiful cross of evergreen had been erected in commemoration of comrades who had fallen and were buried on Southern soil."

In 1872, the St. Paul Press, looking a few days ahead, announced: "The reunion of the old Minnesota regiments on Decoration Day and their march in procession under their old tattered flags promises to be an interesting feature of the occasion."

Minneapolis, also anticipating the event, reported that in its procession there would be "two soldiers of the war of 1812. . ."

Minnesota communities outside the Twin Cities were equally active, as the Stillwater Gazette phrased it in 1875, in "doing honor to our Fallen Braves." In that year, the procession there "was probably the largest ever seen in Stillwater. The Decoration Committee was composed of thirteen young ladies, dressed in white with blue sashes and hats trimmed with red. . ."

The following year, U. S. centennial year, Stillwater made even more careful preparation for its memorial observance. On May 10, the Gazette published the following notice: "All persons having soldier friends buried in either cemetery will please notify the undersigned, giving their names, regiments in which they served, and their location in the cemetery, that they may be properly marked for decoration before the 30th inst. Persons having friends buried on distant battlefields or cemeteries can make wreaths to their memory properly marked, which will be hung on the cross erected for that purpose on Decoration day. ADAM MARTY, Com. on Graves."

*Sarah Bernhardt's return
engagement in 1891.*

Sarah Bernhardt lives in the memory of theater connoisseurs as one of the world's greatest actresses. But the Dispatch reviewer who watched her performance of Fedora on May 2, 1887 was not convinced. The next day, he told St. Paul what he thought of the distinguished player. "The 'divine' actress appears to a large audience, but does not arouse remarkable enthusiasm. That Sarah Bernhardt is an artist, no one will for an instant deny; that she is a greater artist than others with whom she has been compared by eastern critics is an open question. . . At all events, she lacks the power of thrilling her audience at every turn of the play. We sit and admire her work, but we are seldom 'seized by the coat collar and shook over the fire,' as Sam Jones would say. There is something lacking. . ."

Bernhardt's return engagement in 1891 aroused wide excitement in Twin City circles. On September 28, the St. Paul Globe reported: "When Harry Abbey comes to Minneapolis this week with Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, he will feel like presenting Rev. H. H. French with a good sized check, for Mr. Abbey is a shrewd theatrical manager and appreciates the value of advertising. Mr. French . . . might not have thought that he was advertising the appearance of Bernhardt, but he did it just the same. He launched all the thunders of his thunderous tones against the great French woman. He started up one side of her and down the other. Then he began going criss-cross, as the boys say, on the attenuated anatomy of the actress. When he had done, she looked, figuratively speaking, as if she had been posing for a blind sword thrower. Every form of denunciation known to the human tongue was launched at the head of the woman, . . The subject of Mr. French's sermon was 'A Personal Question.' The personal question that he put to his listeners was, 'Are you going to see Bernhardt?' His admonition was that they should stay away if they did not want to become contaminated. . ."

St. Paul answered the personal question by filling the Metropolitan with

"a representative audience of beauty and gallantry." Among those present at the performance of La Tosca on October 2 were: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Driscoll, Mr. Ignatius Donnelly, General and Mrs. Mark D. Flower, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Auerbach, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kellogg, Mr. A. H. Lindeke and Miss Lindeke, Mr. S. Kline, Dr. Millard, Miss Eva Gautier, Miss Lenora Austin, Dr. and Mrs. Schadle, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kalman, Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Livingston, Mrs. and Miss Stickney, and Hon. P. H. Kelly. The baroness De Steuers, wife of the Belgian Minister to Paris, added her titled presence to what the Pioneer Press called "a gleaming parterre of diamonds, feathers, statuesque shoulders and shimmering fabrics."

Minneapolitans also answered the personal question by crowding into the Grand Opera House. Non-linguists were a little distressed at over the players' fluent waves of French, but were pleased to discover that "the angles have disappeared in rounded curves and Mme. Bernhardt is positively almost stout."

*Minnesota's first legal execution
of a white civilian - Mrs. Anne Bilansky*

On March 23, 1860, Minnesota had its first legal execution of a white civilian - Mrs. Anne Bilansky, convicted of the arsenic poisoning of her husband, Stanislaus. There was strong opposition at the time to capital punishment in the state, and a portion of the Pioneer & Democrat's detailed account of the hanging suggests a reason for that opposition.

"There were about one hundred persons present inside the enclosure, when the procession came from the jail. After it entered, some twenty-five or thirty women, falling in the rear, succeeded in gaining admission before the gate could be closed. Some of them had infants in their arms, who kept up an incessant crying in unison with their mothers. . . . As soon as the body was cut down, we noticed an individual making strenuous efforts to secure a portion of the rope, and succeeded, and there were many present who endeavored to get pieces of it as mementos or as a remedy for disease.

"On Thursday afternoon, while the workmen were engaged in preparing the enclosure for the execution, many persons were drawn to the public square by idle curiosity, and remained during the afternoon, congregated in small crowds, discussing the approaching execution.

"At an early hour on Friday morning, the crowd commenced assembling at the Court House square; they took possession of the stone piles, the roofs of the various buildings in the neighborhood, and every elevation which afforded an opportunity of viewing within the enclosure. The gallows-posts were visible above the enclosure from the streets, and the spectator, by obtaining a situation a few feet above the level of the street, had a fair view of the proceedings within.

"At ten o'clock, the Pioneer Guard, Capt. Chamblin, marched to the square, which was crowded with men, women and children. . . . The Guard appeared in undress uniform, with heavy overcoats and fatigue caps. They were provided with ball cartridge in readiness for an emergency. . . . and a line of sentinels formed. . . .

"The crowd. . . must have numbered fifteen hundred or two thousand persons. . . Many men and women were present from St. Anthony. Wabashaw street was blocked up with carriages, light wagons, hay wagons and other descriptions of vehicles, from which the occupants had as good a view of the 'spectacle' as if they had been on the inside of the fence. . . we noticed half a dozen Sioux women, with their children. They were evidently interested in the manner the whites dealt out justice to murderers. We are doubtful if it impressed them with a very forcible idea of our superior civilization.

"A number of persons attempted to 'run the guard' and obtain a position at the fence, where the numerous small openings gave them as good an opportunity of witnessing the execution as those inside enjoyed. . . a few of the 'tender sex' obtained the coveted position. There were a great many women on the ground, some in fine carriages hired for the occasion. . . The execution could hardly be called private. . ."

*St. Paul's "Cholera Hospital" in
successful operation. (1866)*

St. Paul's cholera hospital, announced the Pioneer on September 6, 1866, was a credit to the town. "A casual visit made to the city quarantine and cholera hospital," the paper said, "enables us to confirm the correctness of the report that it is in successful operation and completely equipped for its work. It is on the east bank of the river, just opposite Kaposia. When a boat approaches, if at night, the watchman wakes the superintendent and physician, and they prepare to board her. A transparency on shore with the word 'Quarantine' shows the boat where to land.

"The rich passengers seem afraid to be taken to quarantine, as they imagine it to be a terrible place. One man a few days ago, though very ill with cholera, actually got up, dressed, washed himself, and walked about when the health officer boarded the boat. He was ordered ashore and in three days discharged, cured.

"No case of cholera can possibly be brought to the city on boats. By rigidly enforcing the quarantine regulations, we may avoid the cholera entirely. As yet not a single case has been reported to the health officers and, as the season is becoming late, we shall scarcely have any this year."

The Pioneer had reason to rejoice in the progress made toward cholera control. The disease had long scourged St. Paul and the river towns to the south, and for many years after 1866 the pioneer settlers of Minnesota knew its deadly touch.

The first issue of the Pioneer reported "some cases of cholera" downriver. On January 30, 1850, it declared: "A case of cholera has never been known in Minnesota." But five months later, it said: "The steamer Lamartine, landed here last Sunday, with a cholera atmosphere on board and a cargo of cattle and decaying potatoes, and laid at our levee until Monday morning, trying to rid herself of dirt and pestilence. . . . If we do not have the cholera in Saint Paul, no thanks for our exemption will be due to the Lamartine."

On June 21, 1854, the Minnesota Democrat: "CHOLERA. - We regret to have to announce the continuance of this scourge in the city. . . The steamer Galena arrived at our landing about half past three o'clock this morning. About the time she landed, four of the passengers were almost simultaneously attacked with cholera, of these two died before noon. . . Dr. Goodrich, the City Physician, and Mr. Owens, of the board of health, were unremitting in their humane attention to the unfortunate sufferers and deserve thanks of every friend of humanity in the city. It is much to be regretted, however, that the city has no hospital or building which can be used as such. From present indications it is probable that the cholera will continue to prevail along the river during the summer, and although our citizens may remain exempt from the scourge, the reputation of the city - decency - humanity requires that we should be better prepared to extend a helping hand to strangers, stricken by the hand of God, who come to cast their lot amongst us."

*Cupid had his ups and
downs in early days*

June is the month of brides. In Minnesota during the next few weeks, as in other parts of the nation, Mendelssohn, Wagner and Carrie Jacobs Bond may be expected to rank high among composers of hit melodies. Back in the old days, Minnesota brides did not always hear the marriage service read against a background of soft music. Indeed, there were times when the wife-to-be was glad to hear it read at all.

In January 1850, for instance, the Pioneer reported a sorry state of affairs in the matrimonial field. "Some journeyman preacher would make a profitable trip up the Mississippi river with a supply of blank marriage licenses, there being no person north of St. Paul who is authorized by law to tie the nuptial knot. Many couples are represented to be in an awful state of suspense, more properly imagined than described."

Everything was running smoothly, though, in St. Paul six years later, when the Pioneer wrote: "An Incident. - A wedding took place yesterday morning. . . in the First Presbyterian church. . . the first, we believe, that has ever been celebrated in that house. The happy parties were Mr. Javin B. Irvine and Miss Halsted. Rev. Mr. Maddocks pronounced the ceremony that made the twain one flesh."

Disproportion of the sexes in pioneer communities was also an obstacle to cupid's intentions. A writer in the Minnesotian, in 1857, dating his letter from Glencoe, said: ". . . Out of a population of fifty-three (in Koniska, four miles north) there is only one female. . . Would not this make a good opening for a lot of unmarried ladies? Believe me, they would go off like hot cakes."

In 1868, the St. Paul Press quoted from the Chatfield Democrat, whose editor, apparently, was resourceful as well as waggish. "We will, in our capacity of Justice, tie the hymenial knot in the most approved style, kissing the bride. . . and furnish a copy of the Democrat one year to the happy couple for a five-dollar greenback."

The Pioneer, in 1869, carried an advertisement headed "Husband Wanted by a Widow." Ungrammatically but fervently, the lady announced: "A Good Chance For a Young

Man - A young & good looking young Widow wishes to marry again. but as she strongly beleaves in Fate, she thinks that kind Providens through the sellected way will furnish her with a good Husband. all those wishing to stand a chance in being sellected can do so by sending 5.00 Dollars together with a Name & card de visit. . . The Widow is worth over \$50,000 Cash & Property. . . A. B., Widow, St. Cloud, Box 193."

Advertising for mates was not uncommon in the Sixties. But it had its drawbacks. An Ottertail county girl, writing an open letter to one Nils Nilsen in the Nordisk Folkeblad, said in part: "I am of common lineage. I have naturally only the best opinion of myself, and I have practical experience in keeping house. . . you can see from the foregoing that I am qualified to bring contentment to your home. . . We girls are so often being fooled by false and insincere invitations on the part of the bachelors that we come to mistrust nearly all of them, but your case seems different. . . I have read earlier descriptions of your county, as well as Ole Tuff's invitations to the girls, but he makes light of the whole thing. . . and has not one serious thought in regard to us girls. . . He describes your county as a wilderness where there are neither sleds nor oxen, and prophesied a bloody war so that he frightened rather than enticed us."

Lot Moffet & his Castle

One of the most picturesque builders of early St. Paul was Lot Moffet, owner of a hotel on Fourth and Jackson streets, a New Yorker by birth but a St. Paul resident from 1848 until his death on December 28, 1870.

For those twenty-two years, Moffet kept busy. Senior Deacon of Minnesota's first Masonic lodge, he was also a member of the Sons of Temperance, Patrons of Husbandry, Good Templars, Old Settlers' Association and the Chamber of Commerce. However, it was his hotel, "The Temperance Hotel," run "strictly on temperance principles," that made him a favorite subject among reporters with an eye for the eccentric. His building operations began, according to the Daily Press, when he put up "a three story building on the corner lot, opening it as a boarding house under the name of the Temperance House. . ." The hotel was in a ravine. But Moffet was resourceful. As the ravine was filled in, he kept pace with the filling, building story upon story with his own hands, addition by addition, "sideways and upwards," until he had raised the massive and curious stone structure known as Moffet's Castle.

Moffet was no kill-joy. Shortly after the Temperance Hotel was built, the Pioneer, on December 18, 1851, announced: "ON WITH THE DANCE. - Lot Moffet will entertain Cotillion parties, at his house, on Jackson street, every alternate Wednesday evening. . ." Guests were not disturbed by his building activities. And it became a common sport for citizens to note, as did the Pioneer & Democrat in September 1859, that "Old Settler Moffet has almost completed another of his yearly additions to the Temperance House. . ."

Moffet really got into his stride with the outbreak of the Civil War. Said the Press on May 24, 1861: "HOME FORTIFICATIONS. - Uncle Lot Moffet. . . has become infected with the warlike spirit of the times. After modeling and remodeling, his old castle. . . (he) is now enclosing it with a thick stone wall. . . Our old friend is as silent and mysterious as Gen. Scott himself in regard to his ultimate use of this

fortification. It has leaked out, however, that the Fourth and Jackson street angles are to be provided with two rows of casement batteries, with embrasures sufficiently large to accommodate ten-inch Columbiads. Down in the extreme depths of the castle will be furnaces for heating shot, which shot, when needed for active use, will be elevated to their place in the batteries by a patent contrivance in military engineering art, which will prove the crowning glory of the old man's life."

In 1865: "The untiring and invincible Moffet. . . has not yet ceased his labors. The monument which was erected by his own hands, and which, like an iceberg, raises but half its proportions above the surface, is not yet colossal enough. . ."

In 1868: "The old 'mound builder' is still busy at his Chateau de Moffet, in raising a pile that will puzzle antiquarians when some 'traveler from New Zealand' shall stand on the ruins of the St. Paul bridge and, looking toward the 'everlasting hills,' have his attention arrested by the remains of the venerable pile. . ."

Seven stories had been completed before Moffet's death. In its lengthy obituary notice, the Press remarked of the Castle: "It came very near destruction by the fire on Robert street a short time since, and the upper and rear portion was deluged with water. Mr. Moffet was on the roof at the time, assisting in fighting the flames."

Lung fever, so the Press reported, carried off "a gentleman who stood very high in this city, and whose demise was sincerely regretted by the whole community."

*First Railroad between
St. Paul & St. Anthony*

The big story of 1862 in Minnesota was the beginning of railroad transportation within the state. The newspapers, naturally, reported in continuous detail the progress of the line between St. Paul and St. Anthony. Excerpts from the Press and Pioneer & Democrat of that year tell the story in brief.

March 13: "St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. - The corporators of this company met on Tuesday at the International Hotel and organized by electing Edmund Rice as President of the company; R. R. Nelson, as vice president; Henry Acker, Esq., as secretary; Horace Thompson, as treasurer; Colonel Crooks, as chief engineer; and Henry Masterson, as attorney. . . The new company completed their contract with Messrs. Winters, Harshman & Drake for the construction of the first ten miles between this city and St. Anthony by the first day of August next; but Mr. Drake seems confident they will be able to have the cars running between the two places during the month of June. The contractors have already started teams to draw ties along the road. The ties are brought from Mendota. . ."

April 2: "The laying of the tracks on the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad was commenced yesterday. It will not be many days ere we will hear the whistle of the iron horse along the valley of Trout Brook, and so on towards St. Anthony."

June 29: An important event. . . transpired yesterday. The first division of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad is finished, and trains have commenced to run from St. Paul to St. Anthony! Let it be recorded. . . that on the 28th day of June, 1862, the first link of the great chain of railroads which will, in the course of a few years, spread all over this state. . . was completed, and a passenger train started from St. Paul in the direction of Puget Sound! Yesterday morning the first installment of passenger cars. . . arrived from below by steamer and were placed upon the track. Invitations for an excursion trip were immediately issued by the contractors. . . and

by half past two o'clock a sufficient number of excursionists - ladies and gentlemen - had assembled at the terminus of the road to fill the two sumptuous carriages, and after a brief delay, the locomotive steamed down from the station house, attached itself to the train, and, with a shriek, started on its trip towards the setting sun. . . After a stroll through the suburbs of the Falls city, the passengers again took their seats on the train. . . Burbank stages will be withdrawn from the line, and after that day the railroad will have a monopoly of trade between the two points. . ."

July 3: "The St. Paul and Pacific Railroad commenced yesterday to run three trains a day between this city and St. Anthony, as follows: from St. Paul at 5:30 A.M., 9 A.M. and 6 P.M. On Sundays there will be but two trains. . . The road commenced carrying the mail yesterday." . . Fare to St. Anthony or Minneapolis, including omnibus tickets at both ends of the railroad, 60 cents."

July 3: "On Monday evening we made an excursion to St. Anthony in the cars. . . The only obstacle to the passage of a 'lightning train' was the disposition of the cattle along the road to race with the engine. . . This difficulty, however, will soon be obviated, as workmen are constructing fences along the line."

*High School becomes a "distinct
Department" 1868. in St. Paul* 24.

It's the season of the sweet girl graduate - and her male counterpart - and St. Paul high schools are in a stir with commencement activities. The high school as a recognized unit in the educational system of the city did not appear until many years after elementary instruction was established. It was in 1868 that the high school became a "distinct department" of St. Paul's public education.

That year, in January, the Press reported: "The third story of the Franklin School building has been nicely fitted up for the accommodation of the High School. Henceforth the High School is to be a distinct department, with facilities for obtaining a thorough education, second to none in the state. A graded course will soon be added, upon the completion of which scholars can graduate and receive their diplomas. . . with all the honors of eastern schools. . .

"There is now no more need for our children to send their sons and daughters abroad for an education."

On Friday, June 25, 1869, the students at the high school slicked back their hair, put their best foot forward, and prayed. The next day, the Pioneer told why. "The examination at the close of the term of the high school took place yesterday. Professor Wright examined the classes in Natural Philosophy, Physics and Mathematics in the morning, and the classes in Latin and Geometry in the afternoon.

"Messrs. D. W. Ingersoll and R. W. Delano, members of the school board, were present at the morning examination and expressed themselves highly pleased with the proficiency of the students. Hon. M. H. Dunnell, State Superintendent, was also present a short time in the forenoon.

"Reverend Mr. Mattocks was present in the afternoon, together with quite a number of visitors. The examination was not intended as a very formal one, but the

exercises were of a very interesting nature. The following is the roll of honor:

"Punctuality, scholarship and deportment - Charles Breen, Augusta Thulein.

"Attendance, scholarship and deportment - Ossian Strong, Addie Lareau.

"Punctuality and scholarship - Edson Wait.

"Scholarship and deportment - Percy Linn, Winnifred Cummings.

"Scholarship - Charles Elfelt, Albert Warren, Annie Simpson, Nellie Haynes,

Emma Taylor, Paul Engel, Dana Borup, Augusta Cowley, Laura

Slichter, Fannie Haynes, Dotie Hunt, Hattie Macfarland, Eugene
Smith.

"Deportment - Ella Birmingham.

"Punctuality - Orrin Dewey.

"Ossian Strong, Charles Breen and Orrin Dewey have not been absent a single day during the year."

The 1869 "exercises. . . of a very interesting nature" did not include the most interesting of all to the students concerned - diplomasgiving. But in 1870, according to records of the St. Paul Board of Education, diplomas were granted to two, Albert Warren and Fannie Haynes.

Father Lucian Galtier

This afternoon, St. Paul honors the gentle and intrepid priest who gave the city its name. The granite memorial to Father Lucian Galtier being formally dedicated today on the site of the log chapel built a hundred years ago is, above all, a lasting token of respect to the young French missionary himself. In a larger sense, however, it marks the city's recognition of a quality of spirit in its own frontier beginnings, the simple faith and determined daring of a community that set itself to conquer the wilderness.

Long ago, in 1855, the Pioneer commented editorially on the significance of the Galtier chapel and deplored its disappearance. "It was actually not much in itself to see," the article said. "There was no beauty in the small log hut, the only ornament of which was the small, plain cross surmounting the roof; but there are associations arising from its early erection which should have made it as sacred as the Romans held the thatched hut of Romulus. It was a memento of the past, which should have been preserved if only to mark the beginning and the amazing progress of this city. It is with regret, therefore, that we observe that this venerable old church has been razed to the ground, and no longer can the citizen point out to the stranger the old frame which was the first public building erected within the limits of the city."

Newly ordained and only a short time away from his native France when he arrived at St. Peter's (Mendota) in 1840, Galtier was plunged into a strange, raw world. Some twenty years later, he recalled that "the steamboat landed at the foot of Fort Snelling, then occupied by some few companies of regular soldiers. . . The natural sight of the fort. . . pleased me, but the few houses to be seen on the St. Peter side, and two only on the fort side, & no fields but a complete wilderness, made me all at

once to understand that my mission and life henceforth must be one of privation, hard trial & suffering, and thus required of me patience, labour and resignation."

During the four years that he labored at, in his own words, "the admirable art of guiding souls," Galtier knew not only spiritual discouragement but physical suffering. Occasional passages in his letters to Bishop Loras reveal the obstacles that impeded but could not crush his zealous ministry.

"I arrived this evening from La Petite Prairie quite fatigued. . . A seat was offered me on a sled. But for that I should have been in a serious plight. I ran the greatest risk of freezing my feet on Tuesday. . . and all the next day I was scarcely able to walk because of exhaustion. . . Certainly, it is very dangerous and very imprudent to travel in the snow without a sled. I found (the mission near Chaska) well built and solidly put together, but all the same quite cold. They need a large iron stove to heat their chapel in winter. Often the chalice freezes, a thing that has even happened to me at St. Peter's several times this year."

"Collections and baptisms (for six months) have yielded 65\$ and from my masses I have received the sum of 50\$. Total 115\$. I have expended for wood 13\$, for lumber 12\$, for plaster 6\$, for repairs 10\$. In addition, for my food and the maintenance of the chapel monthly about 5\$. . . in all 100\$. But as I have explained before, I ask for nothing. God has provided for me liberally enough. . ."

Galtier's vision in 1841 did not include the granite memorial of today. He built firmly on the rock of the future. But when he left St. Paul in 1844, he was content to say that he went "neither without regret nor without friends."

*Ghostly doings in St. Paul
back in the 50's & 60's*

Life in St. Paul's first hundred years had its eerie moments. Over in Minneapolis, it seems, things are still a little eerie; five nervous women there have appeared recently before assistant city attorneys Hadley and McHale to report "weird voices" that seemed to come "out of nowhere" and mysterious "vapors" that crept up on at least one of the ladies through the openings in her shoes.

But St. Paul had bigger and better ghostly doings almost a century ago. On July 4, 1850, the Pioneer received a letter from "M.A.S." and "H.E.B." In part, they wrote: "For a few weeks, St. Paul has been the witness of strange proceedings, the principal seat of which is the little cottage roofed public building fronting on Bench street. The knocking usually takes place between the hours of 11 p.m. and 2 a.m., while at intervals the sound of voices can be distinctly heard of a most unearthly tone, accompanied with derisive shouts of laughter.

"At the sound of voices, chairs, books, tables, desks, etc. are set in violent commotion while panes of glass are shattered into a thousand fragments, and not infrequently the panels are forced from the outer entrance. There seems to be no stated time for these appearances, neither can their approach be detected, but at each visit many valuables have been either removed or destroyed.

"Such proceedings from so unaccountable a source, if they do not excite the fear at least demand the attention of the community, as they have already proved highly detrimental to the occupants of the building, who, having failed in every precaution for suppressing these invasions on their premises, do hereby appeal to all good citizens and lovers of order for protection from the attacks of such unnatural visitors, and if possible, devise some method of making them content to abide in their own regions."

It is true that, in 1868, the Minneapolis Tribune was able to report horrid

happenings at the Winslow House. "The daughter of a resident there," it said, "saw a stranger about and reported it. She was given a revolver and, upon seeing him again, fired. Her father heard the shot and a cry, 'Oh, my God!'" and he ran to her. Declaring she had killed him, the father and another man searched the premises but found, to their consternation, neither the man nor traces of blood."

Still, St. Paul came through the next year with a superior spine-chiller. The Press, August 8, 1869: "The across-the-river suburbs are all excitement about a ghost which is said to haunt the depot and railroad track in West St. Paul. His ghostship is said to appear about midnight coming down the track from the direction of Mendota and gliding under the depot, whence strange and mournful sounds proceed. Several persons employed about the depot, as well as other citizens of West St. Paul, claim to have heard and seen it, and tell varying stories of the form of man and beast which it assumes. One of the watchmen says that it first appeared after the man who was run over by the cars about a mile up the track died at the depot. . ."

The ghost who haunted Staples' sawmill at Stillwater in 1878 doesn't count. After Stillwater citizens had publicly announced that they intended to watch for the apparition with shotguns, reporters were shortly explaining that "the Stillwater ghost turns out to be an employee of the mill, dusted with flour and illuminated with phosphorous. His ghostly exhibitions have been definitely postponed."

*Joe Rolette, as fur trader,
politician and Indian agent.*

Joe Rolette, whose exploits as fur trader and politician plagued Indian agents and early Minnesota legislators, received no flattering obituary when he passed away at his home in Pembina on May 16, 1871. However, St. Paulites chalked up his name in their hall of fame as the man who had kept the city the capital of the state.

"The shadowy, romantic twilight of the Indian frontier, with its strange cross lights of barbarism and civilization, has rarely developed a more singular character, than said the St. Paul Daily Press, May 30, 1871, after the news of Joe's death had come through from the northwest. He was "a wild scapegrace of a boy," according to the newspaper biographer; and as a man "a profuse and reckless spendthrift, with a boundless generosity and hospitality, careless where or how he got money and quite as careless where it went to." On the political side, he had "one of those easy consciences which the Democracy had use for in those days. . . Out of twenty or thirty half-breed retainers and neighbors, he would manufacture six or seven hundred votes at a sitting, and promise more if needed."

It is not strange that such a champion vote-getter found a seat for himself in the territorial legislature. Nor is it strange that he received his share of publicity in the news columns. "PEMBINA IN!" announced the Minnesotian on December 25, 1856. "The legislative delegation from Pembina has arrived. Mr. Rolette, Councillor, came into the city yesterday. . . They came through in fifteen days." A dog team was Joe's usual mode of transportation, but on this occasion, a historian relates, the snow was so light that "he walked the whole distance, about four hundred miles."

Mixed-breed Joe's virtues may have been "of the barbaric order," but his mind worked with an agility that constantly confused his opponents. When he disliked bills that were introduced, he made motions and tacked on riders that delayed or killed them. His masterpiece of obstruction concerned a bill to remove the state capital to St. Peter.

Pioneer & Democrat, February 12, 1857: "The bill removing the seat of government . . . to the town of St. Peter passed the Council yesterday by a vote of Ayes, 7; nays, 6. Two members, Messrs. Bailly and Rolette. . . absent. . . The bill will come up on its third reading today, and will probably pass by the same vote."

To which Joe replied with the 1857 equivalent of "Oh, yeah?" Called for the third reading, the bill could not be found. Neither could Joe Rolette. And both remained lost until the gavel fell, closing the legislative session. The Press explained the situation after Joe's death. "It was long a mystery what had become of Joe with the important bill, but it at last turned out that he was secreted in one of the rooms of the International Hotel, holding high carnival during the many days the Sergeant-at-Arms was scouring the country for him."

During those days of frontier high-jinks, Joe was a person of wealth. Just four months before he arrived to make comic history in the 1857 session, the St. Anthony Express reported: "A train of Red River carts, laden with furs and belonging to Hon. Joseph Rolette, passed through this place on their way to St. Paul, on Saturday morning. It brought over \$30,000 worth of buffalo hides, and between \$70,000 and \$80,000 worth of other furs."

However, his obituary stated that "since the golden days of the Democracy, Joe has not flourished. He had a certain fondness for whiskey and fine horses and other luxuries which was not good for him. Of late years, he has been mainly supported by his mother."

Excursions at White Bear Lake
1864 + 69

Some played euchre. Some hunted pigeons. And "a good time was had by all." That was the 1864 notion of a jolly outing at White Bear lake.

The resort was a long way out at that time, and the village of White Bear was young. But even then, it was a compelling magnet for pleasure seekers and simple lovers of nature. Said the Pioneer on June 14, 1864: "The annual festival at White Bear lake was a most enjoyable occasion. The guests of our worthy Mayor amused themselves according to their respective tastes. Some explored the forests in search of game, and with good success. Others threw their lines into pleasant places and trolled; some embarked in the beautiful yacht of Admiral Ross, 'ye ancient mariner'; some of the bears went down into the water and had a delightful swim. . . and all at the appointed time were hungry enough to enjoy the excellent dinner provided by Mr. Murray at the Murray House."

The Press gave a rather different account of the same excursion. In part, it reported: "The ancient and honorable order of white bears, old bears, young bears, corpulent bruins, the ursa majors, the black bears and the grizzlies had a royal picnic at the Murray House, White Bear lake, yesterday. Some fifty of the old veterans were on hand, and about as many young cubs were initiated. . . Dozens rowed and sailed on the lake; some fished and some hunted pigeons. Some. . . played euchre."

Rain interfered with what was to have been a gala event at White Bear five years later. On June 9, 1869, the Pioneer told St. Paul about the plans. "The Excursion Committee of the excursion of the survivors of the Pioneer Guard tomorrow at White Bear lake held a meeting last night at the Merchants' Hotel, and full and complete arrangements were reported. Half fare has been secured on the Superior Railroad, making fifty cents for the round trip, and dinner will be served at Dunn's, making the entire expense of the excursion only \$1.25. Mr. Dunn, an old member of the Pioneer Guard, has generously

placed his large yacht at the disposal of the excursionists during the entire day and will spare no pains to give the most enlarged enjoyment to his guests.

"A number of past officers and other distinguished guests will be present. Governor Marshall, General Gorman, General Sanborn, Dr. Stewart, Mayor Maxfield, Colonel Price and others have promised to be present."

Then the rains came. But the Pioneer Guards were a persistent group, not to be daunted by a spot of damp weather. On June 11, the Pioneer remarked: "About twenty or thirty persons of the Pioneer Guard went out to White Bear yesterday, notwithstanding the unpleasant weather that ushered in the day. A portion of them remained there overnight. Those who returned represent that they had a pleasant time, a good dinner and successful fishing."

*Recent storm just a playful gesture
compared with what happened
St. Paul Aug. 1871*

The recent destructive wind and hail storm was no more than a playful gesture of nature as compared with what happened in St. Paul in August 1871. On the last day of that month, the Dispatch carried a vivid account of "THE DELUGE REPEATED. NOAH'S SHOWER AGAIN":

"... A week ago yesterday... it commenced raining in Minnesota and her sister states. Since that time, we have 'lived, moved and had our being' in the midst of storms of rain, wind, lightning and thunder..."

"Last evening, there burst upon us a storm that in its fury and power for doing damage far surpassed any preceding it. The sky in the morning was overcast... About noon the clouds floated away, but the air continued oppressive. At about three o'clock, clouds began to gather again in the southwest, and then go scurrying across the firmament. These were followed by others, each succeeding squadron, as it were, gaining in solidity and threatening aspects. Along about six o'clock, these advance couriers were followed by a general marshaling of forces in line for the onslaught that followed a little more than an hour later. At the same time, heaven's heaviest artillery began to belch forth, preceded by continuous blinding lightning... it carried with it a sense of impending evil, and people who had not already sought safety within, hurried to do so. And not at all too soon, for the storm came down upon us with fearful speed and terrific force..."

"It did not rain, as that term is ordinarily used; rather, the clouds above seemed to open and let great sheets of water fall down upon us, deluging the streets... low places were submerged... many cellars were overflowed... houses that had never leaked before were found inadequate to withstand the force of the driving rain..."

"Hale's new block, on the corner of Jackson and Fourth streets, is especially worthy of mention as showing the power of the flood... Just back of the new block is a small frame house occupied by J. T. Connell as a harness shop. Reaching this, the torrent

left the street and passed under the sidewalk, and then under the building. Here the water encountered the area wall, eight feet from the building. The area wall is 2 feet, 6 inches at the base, 14 feet high and 18 inches across at the top. This wall the water carried out for nearly or quite 16 feet, as clean as if the rock had been removed stone by stone with human hands.

"The flood then encountered the foundation wall of the block. This is built upon base rock 5 and 6 feet wide and is 2 feet and 6 inches in width. . . Against this the flood rushed, and a break was soon made, which was rapidly followed by carrying out some twelve feet. Of course, the brick work surmounting it, having lost its support, followed, until the supporting iron rod running through the wall between the first and second story was reached, which held in its place the wall of the second and third stories. The wall that fell was in all about fourteen feet in width and eighteen in height. . ."

*Marshal Hoy chases cattle thief
through streets of St. Paul.*

The town marshal in hot pursuit of the fleeing cattle thief suggests the open spaces of the far west. But such a chase once took place in the streets of St. Paul. It made a headline story in the Pioneer of October 28, 1869.

"Yesterday, Marshal Hoy of St. Anthony had a sharp but successful chase after a very bold and desperate thief. . . In the morning, information was brought to him that two head of cattle had been stolen from their owner, who resides in Rockford, Wright county, and that it was believed they had been sold to some of the butchers in either Minneapolis or St. Anthony.

"Marshal Hoy. . . finally found the hides of two steers which were identified as belonging to the animals stolen. . . the next step was to capture the thief. For some reason, Marshal Hoy concluded the scamp had come to St. Paul. He accordingly came down here yesterday afternoon and commenced to search for him. Happening to meet Mr. Charles F. Eaton, brother of S. S. Eaton of this city, he described the appearance of the thief to him and found that Mr. Eaton, who has just returned from the Red River country with several very valuable horses, had just parted company with the cattle thief, and that the latter had borrowed a \$700 horse of Mr. Eaton to ride up street with. Upon learning the facts, Mr. Eaton became satisfied that it was necessary to begin to look after his horse. He accordingly started with Marshal Hoy up Third street. Upon inquiring at the bridge, they found the man they wanted had crossed about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. They accordingly crossed over, after telegraphing to Hastings, with the intention of going to Mendota.

"At Jerry McCarty's, in West St. Paul, they got track of the gentleman and found that he had been running the horse there for small sums of money and that afterwards he had started on toward Mendota. The Marshal and Mr. Eaton proceeded on their way to Mendota, and when they had got out two or three miles the former thought he heard a

horse whinnying. He accordingly stopped and at last became satisfied that he was not mistaken. Driving carefully a little way further, he discovered the man and the animal in the brush.

"The Marshal immediately jumped from the buggy and seized the scoundrel, but the latter was a powerful fellow and the struggle was for a few moments a severe one, and the result by no means certain. The Marshal succeeded, however, in sufficiently overpowering the scoundrel to get one of the handcuffs upon his wrist when he drew his revolver and commanded him to surrender, with which command he sullenly complied. The other part of the bracelets was then put upon him. After thus securing him, he was placed in the buggy, brought to this city and deposited in the jail.

"This morning he will be taken to Hennepin county, and afterwards will probably be sent to Wright county."

*Political convention in Mpls. +
St. Paul June 1892*

June 1892 was more than just a month of brides and roses to St. Paul and Minneapolis. It was the month of the nomination in Minnesota of a candidate for president of the United States.

The only time a national political convention ever came to the state was in that year, the year of the battle between Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland. The convention was held at the old Exposition building in Minneapolis but the throngs overflowed into the capital city, and in both cities there were demonstrations of Republican rivalry. One faction among the G.O.P. delegates was loud for a second term for President Harrison; others were whooping it up for Maine's "iron man," James G. Blaine.

The Pioneer, on June 8, devoted half its front page to a picture of the jammed convention hall; and that night there was a hot time in the old town, thus described by the Pioneer of June 9.

"In honor of the strangers within her gates, the city of St. Paul put on her holiday dress last evening, and the result was a display the like of which few of those attending the national Republican convention have ever seen. All the principal streets in the business portion of the city were brilliantly illuminated by the lavish use of gas and electric lights, and the thousands who thronged the streets were attracted by the glittering spectacle from all parts of the northwest.

"The residents of St. Paul who have seen the illumination of former days missed the side arches along the streets, but this feature of the illumination, which could not be made ready in time for the convention this year, was not missed in the general effect, as the 'trees' of gas lamps placed on every post in the district bounded by Wabasha, Third, Sibley and Seventh streets inclusive, together with the beautiful designs formed of hundreds of incandescent lights. . . made a glittering and bewildering spectacle.

"Suspended in midair, at the intersection of Third and Sibley streets, was the mammoth sickle composed of red, white and blue incandescent lights. . . Third street became so packed that it was well nigh impassable to travel on the sidewalks, and thousands took to the middle of the street. . .

"At 10:30, politics began to crop out, and some of the enthusiastic Blaine boomers, who could not dismiss the man from Maine from their minds, started up Third street, shouting, 'Blaine, Blaine, the man from Maine!'

"The Harrison men were not to accept this defi in silence, and they responded with the shout, 'What's the matter with Harrison? He's all right!' The crowd was ~~abouilly~~ ~~equally~~ divided, and for a few moments the battle ground of the campaign was transferred to St. Paul. Friends of both candidates cheered on the shouters, and the crowd attracted by the noise became so great that progress was practically impossible.

"Long the thousands lingered, and when . . . the workmen began to extinguish the lamps, the visitors cast one lingering look at the iridescent illumination and departed for their various stopping places, satisfied that St. Paul was not lacking in the manifestation of public spirit and thoroughly appreciating the compliment paid to the city's guests."

Harrison was renominated the following day, on the first ballot.

*Rapid growth of St. Paul in
1875*

It was a "great grievance" to Minneapolis, when St. Paul was growing so fast that the census takers were unable to complete their report on the capital city before totals from all other Minnesota communities had been recorded. That was in 1875. What a correspondent for the Chicago Journal of Commerce wrote about St. Paul after a fact-finding visit was reprinted in the Dispatch of November 24. In part:

"I am aware that to sketch this progressive city so that our readers, in all the states, may be familiar with the rapid, substantial growth of Minnesota's metropolis, and the causes of such growth, is no easy task. I have gathered all my information during the past week, and . . . what I do say will be based upon facts and may be relied upon as strictly accurate. Between St. Paul and Milwaukee there is no large city, and the former stands as the commercial emporium of the Northwestern frontier, seeing within four hundred miles no other location, save Minneapolis, that is likely, for many years at least, to rear its head as a rival in commerce. Flourishing manufacturing towns with populations that will vary from twenty to fifty thousand are springing up between here and Chicago, but there is scarcely any point of which great commercial importance can be prophesied. . .

"Ten years ago, the population was 12,972, according to the official census, and now it is so large that, while the returns of the census recently taken have been recorded in every other part of the state for some time, they have not yet been completed here - a source of great grievance to Minneapolis. . . Without official authority, I think the population may fairly be calculated as reaching forty thousand.

"St. Paul has a larger wholesale business than many other jobbing points with three or four times its population. There are several houses each reporting annual sales of \$1,000,000 or upward. . . Few cities of the population of St. Paul can boast of the

excellent railroad system that it possesses. No less than six roads center here, radiating to all points of the compass. . .

"St. Paul has all the elements necessary to constitute it a grain market. . . Grain is brought here from down the river as well as from western and northern sections, because here lower through rates to the East can be secured than at any other point in the Northwest. As a result of these things, St. Paul buyers can afford to offer more for wheat than those of any other city in Minnesota. . .

"The new elevator of the St. Paul Warehouse and Elevator Company has a capacity of 500,000 bushels. This building was opened for the reception of grain in February last and since then nearly a half million bushels have been handled. Of the new crop this year, 100,000 bushels have already been spouted out of this elevator and shipped.

"This institution - with the elevators belonging to the railroad companies - establishes the reputation of St. Paul as the great grain shipping market of the Northwest. Its owners do not buy or sell or speculate a cent's worth. They are business men and bankers. The officers are: D. W. Ingersoll, President; J. C. Burbank, Vice President; William Dawson, Treasurer; M. Auerbach, Secretary. The manager is W. S. Timmerman. There are a great many buyers and the market is handled in a shrewd, careful and straightforward manner."

~~VIII~~
Father Ravoux

St. Paul will never forget, said the Dispatch on January 17, 1906, "that thin, spare man, like an ascetic of the days of old. . . attired in the clerical long alpaca coat and broad-brimmed black hat." A few hours before, Monsignor Augustin Ravoux - "but it was as Father Ravoux that he loved to be known" - had died at the age of ninety-one.

Father Ravoux's life spanned the whole period of St. Paul's evolution from nameless squatter settlement to metropolis. He was preaching to Minnesota's wandering savages almost ten years before the diocese of St. Paul was created, he lived half a decade after the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. In all this history of extraordinary growth, working under the instruction of his successive bishops, Father Ravoux had a sure and unobtrusive hand. That the diocese of St. Paul is today so fitting a location for the ninth National Eucharistic Congress is in no small measure due to him.

Father Ravoux was born in France, the Dispatch wrote, "about twenty miles from Puy, where he spent three years in the Grand Seminaire. Early in the spring of 1838, Bishop Loras of Dubuque visited the seminary and gave an urgent invitation to the students to accompany him to America to labor in the vast missionary field of the great Northwest. L'abbé Ravoux was touched by the appeal and was one of a party who returned to this country with the bishop." Another of the party was Father Lucian Galtier. In the fall of 1841, Father Ravoux visited Mendota, "then set out in a canoe to Traverse des Sioux, where. . . he preached to the Indians and. . . mastered the Sioux language." In the years immediately following, his black robe became familiar from Point Douglas to the upper Missouri. For seven years after Father Galtier's departure in 1844, Father Ravoux had full charge of the thriving parishes at St. Paul and Mendota. From the arrival of Bishop Cretin until his retirement at an advanced age, he assisted in the administration of the diocese.

"Father Ravoux," according to the Dispatch story of 1906, "gave spiritual consolation to the thirty-eight Indians who. . . were executed at Mankato (in 1862) and attended them on the scaffold. . . 'I was sorely afflicted,' says the pious father, 'but. . . God

always gave me strength to overcome my emotion and be calm."

Often in his first years in Minnesota, Father Ravoux had to draw from his faith the comforts that were otherwise denied him. In January 1844, Father Galtier visited him and his assistant at their mission station on the site of Chaska and reported later to Bishop Loras: "They need a large iron stove to heat their chapel in winter. . . they do not have enough pipe for the cook stove. . . but one chair, half broken. . . a single table knife, one coffee cup, two spoons, and two plates. . . M. Ravoux even lacks bedding. . ."

Father Ravoux's own letters to Bishop Loras contain vivid flashes of the everyday hardships of the frontier, and of a spirit that was stronger than those hardships.

1844 - "The maize, tobacco and garments that Monseigneur obtained for me at Dubuque must certainly have contributed to the saving of a few souls. I have made some disbursements for wood and potatoes. . . I am still in great need of. . . a white and violet stole, a box for the holy oils. . . some crosses and medals, an altar cloth, a breviary. . ."

1844 - "I think I shall go to visit the Sioux on the Missouri. . . here are the things that I believe to be necessary. Two horses, two carts and harness, two barrels of flour and one of bacon, sugar and coffee, a manservant. . . who is well acquainted with the trails. . . Since my last letter, we have baptised three adults and one child. We have held two conversations with two Grand Medicine chiefs whom we have covered with confusion."

1844 - "I beg Monseigneur to renew my authority and to please send me a new warrant. The mice have got into my trunk and have torn and gnawed a part of the one that was granted me."

1845 - "I teach the children their catechism an hour a day. Children from ten to twelve in number meet with me regularly. . . I am going to say Holy Mass every Sunday at St. Paul. . . Since the ice is thick, there are some dozen soldiers who come to Mass on Sundays."

1847 - "The spring star has not yet shown at St. Peter's. . . a great deal of snow has fallen in the northern area. . . two savages attacked Mme. Bailly in her house. . ."

*Scattered affairs of the
Catholic Church (1850)
(Bishop Cretin)*

Until July 1850, the scattered affairs of the Catholic church in the Minnesota country were administered from the bishopric of Dubuque. In that month, a papal bull "decreed the erection of the episcopal see of St. Paul" and Rt. Rev. Joseph Cretin of Dubuque was appointed the first bishop. He arrived in St. Paul on July 2, 1851, and his first cathedral was the small log chapel built ten years before by Father Galtier.

"Can you buy me a good cow and calf for 24 or 25 dollars? We have none and must take our tea and coffee without milk." Thus the new bishop wrote to a colleague in Iowa. And again, in a letter dated 1854, one item among many mentioned by Bishop Cretin indicates the kind of problems he had to meet within his 166,000-square-mile diocese. "I have just learned that two mission houses held by the Sisters of St. Joseph among the Indians have been burned, houses and furniture and all their things. I shall now have to provide for them in everything."

At times, even Bishop Cretin's zeal hesitated under the hardships he had assumed when he took up, as he put it once, "the cross of St. Paul." But the few years given him to work in his remote territory were years of substantial Catholic progress. From outlying districts, newspapers gave frequent reports. The Sauk Rapids Frontiersman, for instance, in May 1855: "Two acres of land, adjoining town, have been donated to Father Pierz by Messrs. Geo. W. Sweet and Wm. H. Wood for a Catholic burying-ground." And the St. Peter Courier the following year: "Father De Vivaldi, Catholic missionary among the Winnebago Indians, honored us with a visit a few days since. We are gratified to learn of his success with this savage tribe. The chiefs of the band held a council. . . to express their gratitude and attachment to our friend for his interest in their welfare and that of their children. The missionary school now numbers 210 scholars in regular attendance."

In St. Paul itself, the press noted developments of large community importance. Minnesota Democrat, July 15, 1851: "From the window of our sanctum, we see the workmen

employed in excavating the cellar and foundation for the new Catholic college, which is to be erected on the block bounded by Wabashaw, St. Peter, Fifth and Sixth streets. Bishop Cretin informs us that. . . a ladies' seminary, on a large scale, will be erected next year. . . We predict that this college, in a very short time after its completion, will be among the wealthy Catholics of the Mississippi valley the most popular institution of learning in the United States. Students from the Southern states and the West Indies will flock here to receive their education, and their parents and guardians to spend the summer months."

Minnesota Pioneer, January 26, 1855: "THE CATHOLIC HOSPITAL. - Through the politeness of the Rev. Mr. Fisher, we were favored with an inside view of this magnificent monument of Catholic liberality and benevolence. . . There are some ten patients in the wards. . . here the sufferings incident to poverty, and the pain of sickness are removed, and the tender solicitude of sisterly affection is extended to them by those 'Angels of Mercy,' the Sisters of St. Joseph, to whom the care of the distressed 'is a joyful trouble' . . . the neatness and orderly arrangement of the interior, and the air of comfort exhibited throughout, speaks loudly that 'woman is there.'"

On February 22, 1857, the ailing bishop died. The Pioneer & Democrat printed an account of his funeral on the 26th. "The funeral of Bishop Cretin," it said, "took place on Tuesday, at half past one o'clock, from the Catholic church. The cortege that accompanied his remains to the grave was a very imposing one and numbered, we should think, at least one thousand persons, among whom were about one hundred and fifty children. The coffin containing the body was borne in procession by six pall-bearers, relieved from time to time by six others, until they arrived at the foot of the hill on St. Anthony street, where it was placed in a hearse and conveyed to the new Catholic grave yard. After the performance of the ceremonies over the grave, the procession was again formed and returned to the church, in the same order in which it left it."

*Rev. Thomas L. Grace of St. Paul
Returns from Rome*

To the see of St. Paul, left vacant by the death of Bishop Cretin, Rt. Rev.

Thomas Langdon Grace was called from Memphis in 1859 by Pius IX. He was consecrated at St. Louis on July 24 of that year, and on July 29 Bishop Grace took up his duties in Minnesota.

From then on, his activities were the subject of frequent newspaper comment. A headline article in the St. Paul Press of August 17, 1867, reporting an "ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION," indicated the growth of the Catholic congregation in the city and the regard of the public for the bishop.

"Right Reverend Thomas L. Grace, Bishop of St. Paul, yesterday returned from Rome, where he was summoned to attend the great convocation of prelates, to celebrate the eighteen hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Peter, and to form one of the Grand Council of the Roman Catholic bishops of the world, as well as to assist at the canonization of twenty-five saints. . .

"He arrived here at half past three o'clock in the afternoon by way of the Minnesota Valley railroad. According to preconcerted arrangements, the ringing of the bells at one o'clock in the afternoon gave the people warning of his coming. The different Catholic societies and Sunday schools assembled at the cathedral, from which point they marched. . . preceded by the Great Western band, across the bridge to the depot. . . the bells in the meantime ringing their loudest peals and a cannon thundering a welcome up the valley from the high bank in front of the Post Office. . ."

Having greeted the bishop and formed an escort for his carriage, the procession "marched up Wabasha street to Sixth, turned up Sixth, and halted in front of the Bishop's residence, where he alighted, the band in the meantime playing 'Sweet Home.'" Captain M. J. O'Connor then delivered a formal address of welcome, which the bishop answered, speaking "to the immense assemblage in a low and rapid, yet impressive manner."

"It was difficult," the Press quoted Bishop Grace as saying, "to express the love

he bore to each and every one of the faithful in his diocese, and still more difficult to respond to the affection expressed for him. . . He said that he had experienced the pleasure of having the report from Minnesota gratefully received by the Holy Father in God of the Church, and by the prelates there assembled. He had made a full statement of the past history, the present condition, and the future prospects of the Church in this state, and in return the Pope had empowered him to bestow upon the faithful the Pontifical Benediction. . ."

At the bishop's request, "all present entered the cathedral, which they filled to overflowing, and shortly the procession of the clergy entered, the Bishop being in his full canonicals, with crozier and mitre, walking under a canopy. . . The altar was decorated with flowers, and on each side was placed a beautiful tree, covered with crimson buds and blossoms. The services were of a joyful character, opening with the Te Deum and followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. . .

"At the conclusion of the Divine Service, a large crowd assembled in front of the Bishop's house, hoping to catch another view of him and perhaps hear something more from his lips. He came upon the steps and thanked them. . . He then dismissed them with his blessing."

For twenty-five years, until his resignation in 1884, Bishop Grace worked for the spiritual and physical welfare of the community, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. During that time, Minnesota outgrew its frontier beginnings. Through a turbulent period of settlement, civil war and industrial expansion, the bishop built constructively for the future. He encouraged homesteaders. He carried through the establishment of schools, hospitals and refuge homes. He founded churches and saw to the training of able priests. He earned and retained the confidence of the thousands whose lives were influenced by his humane and practical leadership; and when he relinquished his office to his coadjutor and protegee, Rev. John Ireland, he left a diocese as solid as the faith that had created it.

*St. Paul city streets to be
widened since 1870*

In view of recurring sentiment to widen downtown Seventh street, it is interesting that as far back as 1870 there were some who felt that it was "too late" to attempt any such improvement. In that year, on September 27, a writer in the Pioneer said:

"While our people seem aroused to the importance of parks and fair grounds, we propose for their consideration another matter closely related to these subjects.

"St. Paul is sadly deficient in good wide streets. Strangers are constantly reminding us of this misfortune. We see it ourselves every day, and yet no remedy is proposed. Not only should our Chamber of Commerce or our City Council begin this work around our city, but in some of our business streets. We have within a few months seen a block of buildings erected at a point on Seventh street, where six months ago every citizen was clamorous for widening that important street. Now it is too late; so it will be with others, and we will trudge along through alleys, while other cities are not content with 60 or 80 feet, but widening such streets to 100 and 120 feet.

"The sooner we begin this work the better for us, and there is no better time to agitate it than at the meeting in Ingersoll Hall, at the close of the real estate auction, tonight."

According to the Pioneer, the same month and the same year, there was another little matter that needed looking after in downtown St. Paul. "The Street Commissioner is at work on Fort street and is doing some good. A good deal more service could be done for the city if he would attend to that nuisance on the corner of Seventh and Cedar streets. That frog pond does not look pretty, nor does it smell pretty in the center of the city."

Other Minnesota towns, of course, have had plenty of outdoor problems. In

Minneapolis, in 1884, one of the problems was dogs. Said the Tribune: "During the season, the dog catchers have killed 200 dogs, and the city treasury has been enriched in the sum of \$2,600. This accounts for about 2,500 dogs, with some 10,000 running at large in defiance of the dog catcher and the license tax."

In Stillwater, in June 1878, the hit-run menace broke the horse-and-buggy peace of the countryside. The Gazette gave the details. "As Miss Carrie Prince was driving up to her school a few miles from the city, a fellow drove his wagon against her buggy - perhaps not intentionally - breaking some portion of the gearing. The scalawag drove on, leaving her alone with the wrecked vehicle. Fortunately, Mr. Jacob Bean chanced to pass and, taking Miss Prince into his buggy, carried her to her destination."

*Paper Money in St. Paul.
First Governor of the State
elected.*

There was a lot of pretty paper money in old St. Paul, but it was just paper beyond the St. Croix. So said Gen. R. W. Johnson, reminiscing in the Pioneer Press on January 7, 1877.

"Looking back. . . pleasant memories of more than a quarter of a century present themselves to our mental vision. We see St. Paul from the deck of the fleet passenger packet Senator, just as she turns the bend at Pig's Eye. No church spires rear their heads heavenward. No plate glass fronts are seen. The streets are not graded, and with difficulty vehicles and pedestrians make their way through the scattering houses of this embryo city. The bell of the steamer rings, and with a grand impetuous charge every male citizen in the place rushes to the landing. . .

"In the "days of the empire," men enjoyed themselves more than they do now. Homes were more hospitable. Money was scarce, but our wants were few. Twelve yards of material would make a dress for any reasonable sized woman. Railroad bonds were easily converted into cash, and when once converted our financial obligations in regard to them were ended. We had no large storehouses to draw provisions from, but every one coming here brought supplies with him. We remember taking an inventory of the baggage brought out by one of our old settlers: two hams, twenty pounds crackers, and a barrel of whisky. That old settler will always believe that he invested too much money in hams and crackers. . .

"There were rich men in those days, but. . . disaster overtook them in 1857, and the sheriff in 1858 and 1859 settled up their estates. . . The free banking system of territorial days was calculated to flood the country with as beautiful paper money as ever passed from the engraver's hand, and while this money passed current with us, it had no particular value at any point east of the St. Croix. . .

"Reserve township was then a part of Fort Snelling reservation, but a law

had been passed reducing its limits and throwing all that portion on the east side of the river into the market. Before the necessary order was promulgated, the entire face of the country was covered over with claims, each claimant erecting a shanty on his quarter-section. To give all a fair chance, Colonel Loomis, then commanding at Fort Snelling, directed a lieutenant and ten men to cross the river and tear down every shanty within the limits of the reserve. . .

"We see the end of territorial days. H. H. Sibley is elected first Governor of the state. Old man Holmes, of Mendota, met him before his inauguration and gave him the following advice: "Now, Governor, you are elected the first Governor of this young state, destined to be the brightest star in the constellation. When you go to St. Paul, you must surround yourself with an atmosphere of dignity. You must have the finest carriage in the city. You need not ride in it, but when it passes up Third street, it must be so marked that every one will say, 'There goes Governor Sibley's carriage.' Let me impress upon you the necessity of being dignified, so much so that in all time to come no satinet son of a sea cook will ever aspire to be Governor of Minnesota." "

*Rivalry between St. Paul
+ Mpls. 1869, 71, 75, 80.*

There were no parachute troops, no bombed buildings, no submarines lurking in the Mississippi - but the blitzkrieg of words was furious at times, down through the years, as St. Paul-Minneapolis rivalry heated the newspaper columns. It didn't take much to start a battle. In 1869, for instance, it was a circus. Said the Pioneer on June 12:

"Minneapolis now has a new cause of grievance against St. Paul. Some of her prominent citizens were here yesterday, complaining that in spite to Minneapolis we were endeavoring to prevent the circus from going there. They threatened that, if the sheriff did not release the circus and allow it to pass on up to the Seat of Destiny, they would obtain an injunction against the St. Paul bridge.

"They were laughed at by our people and told that they might have the circus if they really desired it. The offended gentlemen were finally convinced that the levy on the circus was made by virtue of an execution, and that the execution was for a real and not a pretended debt. It required a considerable time, though, to remove their indignation, and they finally went home satisfied, with the notion in their heads that it was a big thing to have a circus in a town."

In 1871, it was population. From the St. Paul Press, November 18: "Our comparative estimate of the population of St. Paul and Minneapolis, based on the vote of the two places respectively, has stirred up a hornet's nest in that young city. . . Within reasonable limits, this spirit of emulation on the part of our suburban neighbor is laudable and deserving of encouragement. . . (But) the sooner our energetic and handsome young neighbor gets rid of the absurd idea that she is or can be in any sense a possible rival of St. Paul, the better it will be for her peace of mind and her substantial prosperity."

During lulls in this inter-city sniping, an all-out alliance sometimes came

up for consideration. In December 1875, the Dispatch observed: "We commend to the people of St. Paul and Minneapolis both the temper and the suggestions of an article elsewhere copied from the Minneapolis Mail." Three days before, the Mail had declared: "This idea (to unite the two cities) is becoming more and more favorably considered every year. . . . If we have a city on the Mississippi that takes rank in commerce and enterprise with Milwaukee and Chicago, we shall then be in a position to command the situation so far as the empire of the great Northwest is concerned."

But the gunning continued. A pot-shot from the Minneapolis Tribune, February 3, 1880: "St. Paul is finding fault with the water supply, claiming there is altogether too much livestock in it to make it agreeable for drinking purposes. To such an alarming extent does this character prevail that many of the strongest temperance men have expressed a determination to take to the safer and more agreeable beverage of whiskey."

Father John Ireland

"Here are your cartridges, boys, don't spare them!" Father John Ireland, chaplain of the Fifth Minnesota Regiment, sped along the front line, distributing fresh supplies of ammunition. That was on the battlefield at Corinth in October 1862.

Twenty-six years later, on September 28, 1888, the North Western Chronicle recorded rare honor for the man who had been an immigrant boy in the streets of St. Paul, who had been one of the "two little missionaries" chosen by Bishop Cretin for study in France, and who had succeeded Bishop Grace as third bishop of St. Paul on July 31, 1884. "Yesterday was a day which will never be effaced from the memories of those who had the happiness of witnessing the ceremonies. . . The conferring of the pallium upon Archbishop Ireland amid solemn rite. . . was an ecclesiastical event never before witnessed in the great Northwest. . . Nor was the joy of participating in it confined to Catholics. Citizens of every class and creed were present in the grand old cathedral, the seating capacity of which was never so severely taxed before. . .

"The high altar, ablaze with lights and tastefully embellished. . . the long row of bishops, fifteen in number, the hundreds of priests in cassock and surplice, and the dense congregation watching. . . the progress of the gorgeous ceremony, made up a spectacle that appealed powerfully to the higher instincts of one's nature, filling the mind with 'thoughts beyond the reaches of the soul.'"

The retired Bishop Grace, "bent low beneath the weight of years," invested the new archbishop with the pallium. "Never," the Chronicle observed, "was (it) placed on the shoulders of a more worthy churchman. . . At the high mass, Bishop Marty pontificated. Father Caillet was assistant priest; Father Trobec, deacon; and Father Cotter of Winona, sub-deacon. The deacons of honor to the archbishop were Father O'Gorman of St. Thomas seminary and Very Rev. E. Walters, of Fort Wayne, Indiana."

On June 2, 1907, sixty-six years after Father Galtier had raised his tiny chapel

beside the river, the cornerstone of the present cathedral was laid. In those years, the St. Paul Daily News said on June 1, the Catholic "community of 13 families" had become "the ecclesiastical province of St. Paul, with 6 episcopal sees. . . more than 600 priests, and a Catholic population of 500,000."

The News described the event as of "great civic as well as religious importance." Senator Moses Clapp spoke for the nation, Governor Johnson for the state, Mayor Smith for the city, and Judge William Kelly for the laymen. "Fully 60,000 visitors were in the city, and fully 30,000 men marched in the monster parade. . . At the opening of the ceremonies, the huge granite stone was raised several feet. . . Just as the Most Rev. John Ireland held aloft a silver trowel, preparatory to spreading the mortar. . . the downpour of rain that had earlier started ceased as if by a miracle, and the sun burst through the dark clouds overhead in a benediction of warm, pure glittering rays. . ."

Archbishop Ireland's address "was received with tremendous applause." Most impressive, in the opinion of the News reporter, were the closing words of the archbishop's invocation to the city. "Fair city, be thou mindful; not chiefly in its imposing walls and artistic adornments must thou see in the cathedral its beauty and value. Be it to thee the home of religion, an inspiration to generous righteousness, a bearer to they people of tidings from the skies - be it to thee the heaven of the soul. They have called the people happy who have these things (the things of the earth); but happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

Seated on the platform among the speakers at what Governor Johnson called "an epoch in the history and civilization of Minnesota" were Mme. Adele Guerin, widow of Vital Guerin, who with Benjamin Gervais had donated the land for the chapel of 1841, and Isaac La Bissonniers, who helped to build it. The latter remarked he had never thought he "would one day see the construction of a \$2,000,000 successor." Nor had he expected to hear the telegram read to the crowd: "In this fortunate country of ours, liberty and religion are natural allies and go forward hand in hand. I congratulate all those gathered to witness the laying of the cornerstone of the new cathedral of St. Paul. I congratulate those who are to worship therein. . . Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States."

*Outdoor Sports
(Tennis Goes out)*

St. Paul's scores of tennis courts, with crowds playing and other crowds waiting to play, have upset a Pioneer Press prophecy of 1892. That summer, a writer for the paper gave his opinion that the game was on its way out. "Tennis elbow" was one of the reasons. The article, dated July 24, said in part:

"TENNIS GOES OUT. - Tennis, which has. . . reigned supreme as the popular out-of-door sport for both girls and men, is slowly but surely losing its feminine constituents. Physicians have inveighed against it, for, aside from the new disease of 'tennis elbow,' the game has done other damage to the physical organization of its votaries.

"Perhaps another vital cause of its decline is the fact that it has ceased to be a game in which men and girls can join with equal chance of success. . . The male tennis champion now refuses to regard seriously a player not of his own sex.

"There was in St. Paul for several summers more than one popular tennis club, but this summer Miss Gordon, Miss Sturgis, Miss Newport and other young ladies who were experts with the racquets have found no occupation for their skill.

"Tennis is a picturesque game - it requires special costumes and special hats which look very effective on a shady lawn, and even on the unattractive 'dirt courts' which the experts prefer. But in spite of its picturesqueness, it is surely waning, and the click of the good old croquet ball is again heard. . . Croquet is a game which does not require the agility of an antelope, and therefore the old and the young of sedentary habits will gladly welcome the game back to its own again.

"Golf is being received with ever-increasing favor in this country, although there are several obvious reasons which will probably prevent its ever attaining the widespread popularity of lawn tennis. . . There are few places where the contiguous

ground is fitted for the purpose, as the links must necessarily cover a great deal of space, a male player walking from three to four miles in going round a good course of eighteen holes; ladies' links are not so long, one and a half or two miles being the limit. . .

"It is a capital game for women as well as for men, and must be far more healthful than tennis, the jumping and straining of the latter, which has done so much harm to delicate organizations, being quite unnecessary in golf playing."

Archery, which has enjoyed a recent revival, drew this note from the Stillwater Gazette in June 1878: "Archery clubs are being formed in various towns and cities throughout the state, but the Faribault Democrat does not take kindly to them and quotes scripture at them, thus: 'For lo, the ungodly bend their bow and make ready their arrows within the quiver, that they may privily shoot at them which are true of heart.'"

Baseball in 1860's Vermillion vs North Star

The 1870 editor of the St. Anthony Falls Democrat might have been left speechless if he had seen the turnout for the Father's Day ball game at Lexington park. In May of that year, he had plenty to say. His theme: "One of the advantages of winter over summer is that the people are not afflicted with base ball club doings. It is certainly a relief to have a little rest from such continual 'matches' and 'innings' as innumerable clubs place before us all summer long."

Six years before, baseball was being welcomed in St. Paul. Announced the Pioneer on March 22, 1864: "There is to be a gathering of young men this evening at four o'clock at the common opposite Dr. Patterson's church in the Fifth Ward, to organize a Base Ball Club. This is good exercise and we advise the boys to be on hand."

Next year, according to the Daily Press of September 21, 1865, the game merited a detailed writeup. "A very interesting Base Ball contest came off in this city yesterday afternoon, between the Vermillion Club of Hastings and the North Star Club of St. Paul. The weather, unfortunately, was decidedly uncomfortable. . . The game, however, was played with much spirit, and the utmost good feeling and hilarity prevailed. A large attendance of ladies and gentlemen witnessed the manly sports of the gentlemanly players, and the interest was so absorbing as to prevent any diminution in the number of the lookers-on. . .

"The North Star, it will be seen, rather 'waxed' their Vermillion friends, but they had the advantage of playing on their own ground. The Vermillion Club is composed of perfect gentlemen, and they bore their defeat with composure, which was clinched with copious draughts of an admirable creamy beverage which the North Star boys poured out for their guests.

"There was some very pretty play on both sides. DeKay, of Vermillion, held some flyers in a masterly manner in left field, and Paine, of North Star, for brilliant catches, and Mr. Wilson for audacious and fortunate play between bases, were applauded. The pitcher

of the Hastings club delivered balls fairly, as required by the laws of the game. Capt. Olin, of the North Star, would have bowled well if the game had been cricket. The umpire, a gentleman of Hastings. . . was 'up to the game' prompt and fair. But if he had 'put the screws' to some very wild pitching he would have pleased us, and perhaps have done service to the manly game of Base Ball. . . INNINGS:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
North Star	2	0	2	17	1	10	3	7	7	49
Vermillion	0	0	2	3	4	2	1	4	0	16

"The gentlemen of the two clubs then adjourned to the International to partake of a sumptuous repast, ordered by the North Star Club, to which all, of course, devoted full attention and at which there was a general good time - sparkling wit, happy repartee, genial jokes, explosions of laughter and champagne bottles, flowing of soul and Catawba - in fact, just such a time as two or three score of intelligent gentlemen can have when they have the disposition."

Minnesota newspapers reported some fine, round scores in those days when the game was young. 1867: North Star Club((St. Paul) 57 - Frontier Club (Mankato) 14. 1868: Union Club (Minneapolis) 76 - Clipper Club (St. Anthony) 48. Also 1868: Gophers (St. Anthony) 91 - Wide Awakes (Minneapolis) 21.

On January 3, 1877, the Pioneer Press announced an innovation. "The greatest novelty of the season, at the Fifth Avenue Skating Rink at 2 P.M. today - nothing less than a game of base ball on skates. Two picked nines, selected for their skill and dexterity on runners as well as for their proficiency in the national game, will be the contestants, and there will be more fun than you can shake a stick at."

VIII
Fashion in 1876

When the members of the Women's City club raided their attics and fitted themselves out in costumes of the gay nineties for their river excursion the other evening, they made a quaint appearance. But not so quaint as if they had gone back, sartorially speaking, to the strenuous seventies. In June 1876, a Twin City newspaper told its lady readers what fashion had decreed for them.

"The bonnets for this season are are capotes, close bonnets and Gainsboroughs.

"Broad elastic bands are better than strings to tie back skirt and polonaise draperies.

"Deep fur borders appear on some of the dolmans.

"A new way of ornamenting the bottom of dresses is to use thick fringes falling over box or knife pleatings.

"Chenille hair nets are coming in vogue.

"A new fabric for overdresses is called Bourette; it is of silk and wool in damask figures, with a rough knotty surface.

"Marie Antoinette and elbow sleeves or tight-fitting coat sleeves down to the wrist are both worn for evening."

Back in 1868, Minneapolis reporters noted a novelty that is less astonishing in 1941 than it probably was then. "Flesh-colored gaiters, with the toes stitched with black, to look as if the foot were bare, are. . . the newest mode. They are said to have a shockingly natural affect."

In 1869, the St. Anthony Falls Democrat saw red. "At the Musical Convention held in the Opera House. . . the singers on the stage, for the most part, wore some article of scarlet. In winter it is a warm and becoming color to nearly all complexions, and we presume the shade there indicates the fashion that is to prevail."

Lace was popular in Twin City circles in 1870. Dressmakers featured it for

"sacques. . . shawls slashed up the back. . . overskirts and extensions." China crepes and flowers were being shown for bonnets, and the "cottage style" of bonnet led all others. But bonnets were on the way out that year, and hats were coming in. "The most noticeable feature of the hats," said the Tribune on May 7, "is that all the trimmings, ribbons, flowers or feathers, are perched upon the very top of the hat, falling down in festoons at the back, with scanty trimmings of lace and satin folds about the lower brim. The 'Princess,' 'Tyrolene,' 'Pyramid,' 'Santa Rosa' and 'Glen' hats are the most attractive. There are about a dozen each of the different styles of 'Shoe Flys' and 'Frou Frous'. . ."

Fashion notes of 1874: "Among the fanciful additions to summer dress are colored aprons of blue, lilac, black or rose twilled India silk, trimmed with a deep-pleated flounce of white muslin edged with Valenciennes. . . Croquet hats are in flat Japanese shape made of Florida straw and covered all over with white muslin or tarlatan, plain or pleated, and are finished by a black velvet bow in the center."

In 1875, a fashion writer from up the river contributed this: "The latest spring styles for ladies include birch bark canoes, worn in place of the usual bustle."

*Bad boys who flew the coops
belong to an old and well publicized company*

The occasional fellows who wangle their way out of Minnesota lockups belong to an old and well publicized company. State annals show that individuals lodged in jail for "safe keeping" were not always safely kept, and their getaway usually brought down editorial fire on the head of the unlucky keeper.

Pioneer & Democrat, October 9, 1857: "Mason B. Clark, arrested by Detective J. C. Hall for stealing \$40,000 worth of land warrants, and brought to the St. Paul jail, escaped from that institution on Monday morning. Clark had been very uneasy in his cramped quarters and had asked permission to walk in the hall. This was refused until the morning of his escape. He wrenched two iron bars from their places in a small window and crawled through the aperture. He did some fast running past the capitol towards the bluff. The alarm was given almost before he was out of sight, but he escaped to the woods before police officers got started in pursuit."

Minnesotian, May 18, 1858: "For about the fifth time within the last fourteen months, we are called upon to record the escape of criminals from the jail in the City Buildings. As usual, 'nobody is to blame,' but it will be hard to convince the public that it is the insecurity of the building and not the criminal negligence of the turnkeys that permitted the three prisoners to escape yesterday morning.

"The names of those who escaped were 'Whiskey Jack,' arrested at Crow Wing for arson, &c., and brought to St. Paul for 'safe keeping.' One was Jno. McCarty, awaiting trial on charge of larceny, and the third one, whose name is forgotten, on similar charge. The escape was accomplished about three o'clock in the morning, by dint of whittling out and prying the bars off by means of a spike - and getting out of a window, while the turnkey was outside sitting, asleep, probably, in the Police Room, by the stove. (We believe the Council sometime back ordered the turnkey to remain in the prisoners' room).

"At any rate, these three men escaped, and had any vigilance been observed they would not have had a chance to get out. How much oftener is this to happen before means effective and certain are taken to insure the safe keeping of every criminal committed to those cells?

"The other prisoners say that the fugitives made enough noise in the escape to have awakened any SOBER man anywhere about the building, had he been asleep. Precautionary measures have been taken to prevent a recurrence of these escapes, and it is safe to conclude that there will no more happen (until the next time)."

The bad boys flew the coop over in Minneapolis, too. On March 9, 1876, the St. Paul Dispatch reported with evident satisfaction a break in the Mill City. "The Hennepin county hen coop, sometimes misnamed jail, was busted wide open last evening, five prisoners making their escape. By some means, probably instruments furnished by outside parties, the quarter-inch boiler iron covering the ceiling of the room was cut through. Through this opening, the prisoners crawled, thus giving them easy access to the garret of the jail proper. The next step was to cut a panel from a door leading into an apartment occupied by a servant. . . They were in the street almost before the sheriff was aware that anything unusual was occurring."

*First 4th of July celebrated in
St. Paul & Minnesota Territorial days*

St. Paul, Minnesota Territory, was up early and at it on the morning of July 4, 1849. A full account of this first official celebration of the national holiday by the new territory was published ten days later in the Minnesota Register.

"It has never been our fortune to attend a better regulated or more enthusiastic celebration than we had here at St. Paul. . . It was numerously attended by the people of both sexes, not only those of our town and vicinity, but also many from St. Anthony, Mendota, Stillwater and other parts of the territory. . .

"At an early hour in the morning, we were awakened by the roar of the cannon loaned for the occasion through the politeness of Col. Loomis, the commandant at Fort Snelling; and immediately after breakfast, the tall, tapering pine pole, prepared. . . by Mr. C. P. V. Lull, was raised and the Star Spangled Banner thrown to the breeze. At eleven o'clock the Marshall of the day, F. Steele, Esq., and his assistants, Messrs. Nobles and Larpenteur, formed the procession in front of the St. Paul House, and marched it to the grove in the rear of the School House. . . Gov. Ramsey assumed the duties of the President of the day, assisted by Hon. H. H. Sibley and H. M. Rice, Esq., as Vice Presidents. The religious services were. . . performed by the Rev. Mr. Geer, Chaplain at Fort Snelling, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence was tastefully and audibly executed by W. B. Phillips, Esq. The oration by Judge Meeker then followed. . .

"The procession then marched to the American House, where about 200 persons, comprising many ladies, sat down to an excellent dinner. After the cloth was removed and the ladies had retired, the following toasts were read by the Toastmaster, W. K. Marshall, Esq., of St. Anthony. . . Gov. Ramsey, Hon. C. K. Smith, Secretary of the Territory, Hon. H. H. Sibley and others were called up during the festivities. The celebration was enlivened by the music of the excellent band of the Sixth Infantry from Fort Snelling."

The formal toasts were varied:

1. The day we celebrate.
2. The members of the Continental Congress of '76.
3. The memory of Washington.
4. The President of the United States.
5. The army and navy of the United States.
6. "Minnesota - yet in her swaddling clothes, but destined, like her own Aurora Borealis, to be the northern light of the confederacy."
7. The executive officers of the territory.
8. The Judiciary.
9. "The best gold mine - we are willing to leave it to posterity to decide, whether it be found imbedded in the yellow sands of California or the black soil of Minnesota."
10. The Great West.
11. Fort Snelling.
12. "The cities of the states that are now scourged with the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday, while basking in the untainted breeze of our own healthful clime, let our afflicted brethren be assured that they are not forgotten in our sympathies."
13. Woman.

Volunteer toasts were offered by more than a score of the guests present at the dinner. And the day-long celebration was concluded, according to the Register, "by a grand ball at the American House in the evening, and a brilliant display of fireworks, gotten up by Mrs. O. H. Kelley."

*Samples of something very like
sabotage as we know it today*

Sabotage as we know it today was rare in Minnesota's early years. Something very like sabotage, however, has made its appearance from time to time in the state. Scattered samples from the newspaper annals:

Sauk Rapids correspondence in the Minnesota Register, 1849 - "The store of H. M. Rice was totally consumed by fire, but it is not yet known who is the incendiary. . . . Such an explosion I never witnessed during my life. It was a perfect earthquake and far ahead of the battle of Monterey."

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), 1858 - "About eight o'clock, Wednesday evening, a fire broke out in the rear of the barn belonging to the Kelly House. . . . The loss. . . will amount to upwards of \$2,500. . . . The fire was, no doubt, the work of an incendiary. . . a drunken fellow having threatened the proprietor."

Goodhue County Republican, 1867 - "A brewer in Wabashaw, named Wealthy, detected one Burkhart in the act of throwing poison (phosphorous) into the cooler of the brewery. Wealthy fired at him twice with a shotgun loaded with buckshot, wounding him severely. The poisoning had been repeated two or three times, when a watch was kept, with the above result."

Pioneer, 1866 - "The two fires which occurred on Sunday evening were undoubtedly each the work of incendiaries, and show that we have bold and reckless persons among us who will not hesitate to commit this crime for some object or expected gain. Mr. Alex Nelson, whose tin shop was found on fire states that the intruder took the lamps, removed the wicks, put them on the floor, poured kerosene on them and lighted them. A similar attempt an hour later and doubtless by the same person was made to fire A. D. Davidson's carpenter shop."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1867 - "The St. Peter Advertiser says that some of the

settlers in the valley of the Chippewa, away out west of the Falls of St. Anthony, were recently arrested by a deputy United States marshal and brought to St. Peter on a charge of stripping and peeling slippery-elm bark off the trees on government land."

St. Paul Dispatch, 1875 - "Governor Davis offers a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who placed obstructions on the track of the St. Paul and Sioux City railroad in Blue Earth county, on the 13th day of April last, by which a train was thrown from the tracks, one person injured and a large amount of property destroyed."

Brown County Journal (New Ulm), 1902 - "When the parties who planned to destroy the threshing engine of Mans and Wenigar set about to execute their designs, they evidently arranged for a wholesale destruction of farming machinery, for this week two corn shredders were wrecked in Nicollet county. In both instances, dynamite was used to bring about the desired end, and all appearances go to show that they were the work of the same persons who have been terrorizing West Newton. . . Residents of the localities are not slow in fastening the guilt, and they more than hint that it is some more work of the L ----- Evidence, it is claimed, has come to light to show that these people ordered dynamite from Montgomery Ward & Co. of Chicago. The package was shipped to New Ulm. . ."

*The Transgressor usually
had to pay*

The way of the transgressor has usually been hard in Minnesota. The hot-tempered doctor who slapped a theatrical critic's face, the woman who stole a library, the playboy who claimed that a Fourth of July jag was a non-arrestable offense, the errant steamboat that rammed a sister craft - they all had to pay. The year of payment was 1866.

Pioneer, March 14 - "Dr. John P. Gabrielson was fined ten dollars yesterday on a charge of assaulting Charles H. Lineau, publisher of the Volksblatt. It appears that Dr. Gabrielson was an actor in a comedy recently played at the Atheneum and that Mr. Lineau criticized his acting as 'low grogshop manners.' The liberties and prerogatives of a free press having been trampled on in this outrageous manner, Justice McElrath vindicated them very properly by the fine mentioned above."

Pioneer, April 10 - "A German woman named Catherine Wright and her son Henry, a boy aged about 14, were brought before Judge Williams yesterday, charged with stealing the Richfield Sunday school library." Unable to pay fines, the mother and son went to jail for twenty days, the judge suggesting the library go with them since they were obviously of a literary turn of mind.

Pioneer, July 7 - "An unfortunate individual was brought up before the police court yesterday, having been picked up by the police while drunk. He claimed exemption from fine under a recent decision of Judge Lambert that a man could not be fined for getting drunk on the Fourth of July and that it had been the same drunk he had on the Fourth! Judge Lambert admitted the force of the argument and said he would let him off with the small fine of \$5 and costs."

St. Paul Press, July 19 - "Steamboat Arrested. - The steamer Ida was taken in charge yesterday by the sheriff of Ramsey county, and tied up. The charge against the Ida is that she maliciously ran into and abused her sister, the Julia. Ida compromised by paying Julia \$152."

It need not be supposed that 1866 was a banner year in the punishment of wrongdoers. In 1867, for instance, the Minneapolis Tribune reported that "a rascal by the name of Edward Pinehard was arrested on last Sabbath evening for disturbing the peace of the First Baptist Church congregation. . . He was sent to jail for thirty days."

The following year, Minneapolis again upheld civic decorum. "A solitary horseman . . . was seen dashing wildly through the principal streets of Minneapolis, bearing aloft a three-cornered piece of Dutch cheese. . . Charged with a violation of the ordinance in relation to fast driving, he was fined \$6.50."

In 1872, New Ulm authorities had to take a firm stand on a domestic issue. Said the St. Paul Press: "A woman in New Ulm was arrested last week and locked up in jail for beating her husband. After 24 hours' imprisonment, she was tried and discharged with an admonition to leave the poor fellow alone in the future."

In 1876, Stillwater went into action against one of the town characters. The Gazette told the story. "She probably has some other name and likewise a local habitation. She visits Stillwater. . . and always whoops 'er up with the boys in a style peculiarly her own. We saw a policeman Sunday morning carrying around a fiery red corset and a lot of hair of a comparatively subdued color, supposed to be the property of this 'soiled dove.' She arose from her downy couch in the lockup on that balmy Sabbath morning, and made her toilet somewhat hastily, omitting the above mentioned important articles for female apparel. She was recommended by the authorities to take a little walk before breakfast across the bridge, and try the Wisconsin air. She was rustivating in Hudson at last reports."

First Settlers in St. Paul

St. Paul has always been history-minded, and from the first the columns of its newspapers have been hospitable to correspondents with tales of the past. In the summer of 1849, for example, a year when local history was fast in the making, the Pioneer gave space to a reminiscent letter from W. H. Forbes, an employee of the American Fur Company who had already been in the vicinity for more than ten years.

"The following communication," said the Pioneer editor, "will be read with interest by hundreds of people in St. Paul, whose residence ^{has} ~~have~~ been so brief that it has never occurred to them how recently the site of our flourishing village, where town lots are now selling at from \$50 to \$500 each, was a mere valueless deer range."

Mr. Forbes wrote in part: "The land where the town of St. Paul now stands, with the surrounding country on the east side of the Mississippi as far up as Crow Wing river and so far down as to include the St. Croix, Chippewa and Black river country, was ceded to the United States by a deputation of Sioux Indians, accompanied by Hon. H. H. Sibley, in the summer of ¹⁸~~18~~47, at Washington, D.C., which treaty was concluded during the session of the same year.

"There were some few settlers in the vicinity of Fort Snelling, tolerated by the commandant, principally Canadian voyageurs and Red River halfbreeds. The first house was built, or the first claim taken, near St. Paul at the Cave, some two miles above it, by a Swiss family of the name of Perry, who had emigrated to this country by the way of the Red River British possessions, north of St. Paul some seven hundred miles; they had resided some eight or ten years previous near the Fort; but as soon as the news of the ratification of the Sioux treaty was known, he made that claim at the Cave. Others also settled themselves near Perry, with the intention of making themselves farms, among the rest a man of the name of Benjamin Gervais, a French Canadian by birth. They retained

their possession until 1840, when by extension of the Military Reserve they were driven from their claims, their houses torn down before their faces, and they were once more compelled to make for themselves new houses.

"Benj. Gervais settled and claimed what is now known as St. Paul proper. A Canadian named Parant, in the spring of 1836, established a small log cabin on the landing (what is now known as the lower landing), for the sale of whiskey by the glass, which old claim was destroyed last winter by fire. Mr. H. Jackson was the first man who established a store. It was during the summer of 1842. He purchased a piece of land of Gervais and built him a house on the brow of the hill, just above the lower landing, where he still resides. Mr. J. W. Simpson built himself a small house in June 1843, where he ^{opened} ~~opened~~

a small ~~himself~~ store on a piece of land also purchased from B. Gervais, where he still resides.

. . The third store which was established was by Mr. L. Robert, in the old log house first erected by Parant. In the course of the same summer, he, with Mr. McLeod, purchased the remainder of Gervais' claim for the enormous sum of \$350. Since then, some of Mr. Robert's lots, 50 by 100 feet, have been sold for \$400. . ."

*St. Paul Water Company
celebrates first pipe line*

While Minnesota was being built, both the builders and the bystanders enjoyed an occasional celebration. Often more fun than the carefully ^{plotted} planned events were the informal celebrations, those casual jollifications that were planned on slight excuse or not planned at all. Turning on the water in a pipe line, for instance, caused a festive get-together that was described in the Pioneer of December 5, 1869.

"About 10 o'clock yesterday morning, the passerby might have seen a very interesting and significant sight on the corner of Third and Jackson streets. It was the occasion of turning the water on the pipes on the Jackson street line. There was no pompous ceremony, yet the incident was full of interest. Assembled on the occasion we noticed Mr. Gilfillan, President of the St. Paul Water Company, Judge Goodrich, whose recollections of St. Paul run back to the time when a single bucket full of water sufficed for the daily supply of that fluid for all the inhabitants thereof, Col. J. J. Shaw, and Col. E. C. Belote. These four and no more formed the group. No long-winded speeches were made, but when the time arrived Judge Goodrich, in honor of his title as the 'oldest settler' of them all, quietly turned the faucet, and the clear, sparkling water from Lake Phalen poured forth in limpid beauty. For a few moments, they gazed upon the miniature waterfall, and then turned thoughtfully away and disappeared within the hotel, where the concluding ceremonies might have been witnessed, accompanied by the audible announcement that they 'took sugar in their'n.'"

A two-man celebration of a sort cheated Minneapolis out of a minstrel show in August 1870, according to the Tribune. "Arlington's Minstrels did not light up the Opera House last evening," the paper observed. "The company came up from St. Paul in the afternoon. After tea, Arlington played billiards and Frank Lombard (the leading man) soothed himself to sleep in a barroom chair, singing, 'I'm afloat, I'm afloat.'"

In 1874, a free-for-all brawl in St. Paul's sixth ward was turned into a

celebration because the ward was dignified by the visit of a policeman. Said the Press, December 8: "Officer O'Keefe is in luck. Last night they had a loud time in the sixth ward, and Captain King detailed Officer O'Keefe to go over there and maintain the peace. Like a good officer as he is, he went over and commenced his labors.

"In consideration of his being the first 'star' that had appeared in the sixth ward, a number of people surrounded him and prepared to celebrate him. They showered cigars upon him and Heinbach put a can of oysters into his pocket. At Longevin's, they again surrounded him and the proprietor slipped a good pair of winter gloves into his pocket, and some other things with the promise of more, all because he was the first 'star' in that ward. He. . . wants to go again."

Then there was a solo celebration in 1876. The Dispatch considered it of sufficient general interest to copy the account from the Faribault Democrat. It appears that there was a gentleman in Faribault "who had been miserable for ten years (and) suffered the most horrible agony in his stomach." The trouble turned out to be a four-foot water snake "common to the ponds and streams of New England." The item concluded: "A few weeks since, he was taken with typhoid pneumonia and called Dr. Nichols, who not only cured him of the disease. . . but has relieved him of a burden that made his life almost hateful. Mr. Bingham, although still very weak, says he is better than before in ten years and is probably the happiest man in Minnesota. . ."

Ballad of the famous Pokegama Bear
by - Frank Hasty

When Grand Rapids starts today the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary as an incorporated village, old timers may be expected to get together and swap tales of the big woods. There will be plenty of stories to swap and some mighty names to conjure with. One of those names will be Mike McAlpine. And remembering him, someone is sure to recall lumberjack Frank Hasty's ballad of the famous Pokegama bear. In 1924, McAlpine himself recited the verses for the Itasca County Independent.

"Come all you good fellows who like to hear fun,
Come listen to me while I sing you a song.
Come listen to me while the truth I declare,
I'm going to sing of the Pokegama bear.

One cold frosty morning the winds they blew,
We went to the woods our day's work to do.
Yes, into the woods we did quickly repair.
It was there that we met the Pokegama bear.

One Morris O'Hearn, a bold Irish lad,
Went to build a fire in a big pine stub;
He rapped with his axe when he went there,
When out popped the monstrous Pokegama bear. . .

Into the swamp old bruin did go,
O'Hearn and Hasty did quickly pursue,
As in through the brush those heroes did tear
To capture or kill the Pokegama bear. . .

Out on to the road then old bruin did go,
He thought that was better than wading through snow.
Yet little he knew what awaited him there,
For fate was against the Pokegama bear.

There was one Mike McAlpine of fame and renown,
Noted for foot racing on Canadian ground.
He ran up the road, raised his axe in the air,
And dealt the death blow to the Pokegama bear.

When out to the camp old bruin was sent,
To skin him and dress him it was our intent,
And we all agreed that each should have a share
Of the oil that was in the Pokegama bear.

To the cook it was taken, the tallow tried out,
Each man with his bottle did gather about.
When Hasty and McAlpine they both lost their share
Of the oil that was in the Pokegama bear. . .

Now my song is ended, and I'll drop my pen.
Morris O'Hearn he has got the bear skin.
Here's ~~long~~ life to you, boys, and long growth to your hair,
Since it's greased with the oil of the Pokegama bear!"

*Theodore Roosevelt negotiates Peace
with Russia & Japan 1905*

"The president feels that the time has come when, in the interest of all mankind, he must endeavor to see if it is not possible to bring to an end the terrible and lamentable conflict now being waged. . . . The president, accordingly, urges the Russian and Japanese governments, not only for their own sakes but in the interest of the whole civilized world, to open direct negotiations for peace."

It was thirty-six years ago that the Pioneer Press printed that special dispatch from Washington. On that June 10, 1905, the eyes of the world were focused on Roosevelt and Russia - the earlier Roosevelt and a different Russia. The empire of the czar was getting the worst of it, when Theodore Roosevelt proposed the negotiations that resulted in the United States-sponsored treaty of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. And in the news columns of that period there are phrases and attitudes that sound startlingly familiar to 1941 ears.

On June 13, the Pioneer Press said editorially under the caption "The President As Peacemaker":

"That the president has inspired and has been the directing spirit in the peace negotiations now well under way appears from the fact that his agency is universally conceded. It seems also to be acknowledged that his diplomacy has been of a high order; that he recognized the psychological moment, caught at the opportunity and conducted a very delicate business with exceptional tact and skill. . . .

"Rarely has a president of the United States been so well known in Europe. His personality has attracted universal attention, so much so in fact that there have been some indications that his influence and position in American politics was even exaggerated. For this, there is a good deal of excuse, for, aside from the picturesque qualities of the man and his career, which must appeal to the European imagination, the overwhelming

popular indorsement which he received last November has been regarded abroad as even more of a personal triumph than it really was.

"Europe, in short, viewing him as the representative of the United States, was not unprepared for the straight-from-the-shoulder way in which he laid the views of the United States and of the rest of the world before the Russian government. . . Russia could not take umbrage at what it knew was a sincere desire for its own welfare as well as that of the world.

"To no little extent, the same knowledge and high estimate of the president's character and ability account for the earnestness with which France, Germany and Great Britain have supported his efforts. . . The barrier erected by the pride, not to say the obstinacy, of Russia has broken down, the antagonists are undoubtedly in communication, and if the outcome is not peace there will be every reason for surprise."

To all this there came three months later a dissenting voice from Duluth. The Pioneer Press of September 6 carried the following report from the Zenith City:

"'Evil has already come from President Roosevelt's interference in the Russian-Japanese war, in the strained and unstable peace treaty which has been patched up between these two nations,' said Rev. Robert Forbes, corresponding secretary of the American board of the M. E. Church. 'Further and greater evil will follow. Russia has always been like a big bully in a country school (and) the Japanese were rapidly bringing her to her knees. . . . Trouble is brewing and will break forth. England will, in my opinion, be the one to bear the brunt. Lord Kitchener is even now preparing in distant India to cope with the trouble which he sees must come.'"