W O Johnson

# THE ENTERPRISE.

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## RESPONSE TO MR. WOTHERSPOON.

**Being a Continuation, and Something More, of E. Warner's Article Published March 6th.**

MR. EDITOR: I had not fully exhausted the branch of the subject I was discussing in your issue of the 6th instant, when I was obliged to break off abruptly because of lack of space in your columns. It requires but a few words to utter falsehoods. To reply to them and prove their falsity by argument requires as many lines. Hence the extreme length of my remarks.

Without further preface let me say, Mr. Wotherspoon draws up a terrible indictment against the Oregon City churches. He says, they "are literally driving starving and discouraged souls to perdition." He then asks if he has drawn the picture too strong, and says we all know he has not, and that he has told the absolute truth—has been exactly true to life. We all, who are in the practice of observing what is transpiring in community, know that such assertions and claims are absolutely false. To show that they are false, as well as the other assertion that the churches are shut up six nights in the week and kept in darkness and gloom so that the tired laborer cannot enter them after the day's toils are ended, I have only to outline briefly the winter's work of one of these churches, as a sample of what they all have done. Take the Methodist church: Services are held in this church regularly to which old and young, friend and stranger, are cordially invited. Notices to this effect are posted in public places and published in the news prints. It has a Sunday school and an Epworth League for the young. The Sunday school numbers over one hundred members, and there are some forty young people in the League. The building is warmed, lighted, and made comfortable and attractive by the society. Literature of various kinds, both secular and religious, is distributed. Music is furnished. For weeks during the winter the church has been opened every night. In addition to the religious discourses, scientific lectures and musical and literary entertainments have been given, and multitudes of young people have enjoyed them. All this and much more has been the work of the church. It stands a fair sample of what all have been doing and will continue to do from month to month and year to year. I know less of our Catholic friends than of the others, but we all know that Father Hillebrand and the other members of his flock work with energy and zeal to attract and lead the young away from the resorts of vice. They make special efforts to "save the boys." If the young men and maidens will not attend these things who is to blame? If the "tired women," who according to Mr. Wotherspoon are "strolling the streets under the electric lights" will not come in, who is to blame? Why, the churches! shouts Mr. Wotherspoon. "They are literally driving discouraged souls to perdition!"

As I proceed I feel ashamed and humiliated that any one bearing the image of manhood can make necessary the task of dissecting such balderdash. But I write not as a sectarian, for such I am not in any true sense. Nor am I defending the distinctly spiritual side of the question. That belongs more properly to the pulpit and the domestic altar. I write as a man and citizen, who from long years of observation knows that our christian churches are more and more the conservators of morals and the upbuilders of the true social side of life. While they retain and teach the central idea of "Christ as their Living Head," they are adopting new methods and making church work more attractive to the young than ever before—I might say to the old also; and hence their influence for good is broadening and lengthening to an extent never before known. They are aggressive in their work; and herein is found the reason why so many who would really "save the boys," and girls as well, and who had given both heart and the churches, are now giving them their moral aid.

Enough has been said to show that the churches are not chargeable to the charges made by Mr. Wotherspoon.

But what shall we say of the declaration that "our laboring women, being employed during the long hours of the day in mills, shops and factories, naturally go out on the electric lighted streets at night for change, diversion, and friendly association?" "Tired out," Mr. Wotherspoon says, "they do not care to walk about an entire evening, so they look about for an inviting retreat where they may sit down." The church, in its "solemn and gloomy stateliness" is shut against them. But the saloon stands invitingly open and "allures the discouraged and heart-sick woman and girl to come in. Once within, driven there because of no place to go, they soon become habitues of the place!" This is the marrow of a paragraph too long to quote entire. No reader will say I have perverted its meaning. Women and girls from our factories and mills become street strollers and habitues of the saloons because shut out from the churches at night! To multiply words here to show that such a statement is a slander uttered against both women and churches would be to insult one's intelligence.

Can it be possible that he who penned such low drivel ever heard the word HOME, or comprehended its meaning? HOME—a place of rest, more sacred, and more to be honored when kept in domestic purity than even the church itself. And let me tell this young man that the large majority of these women and girls for whom his heart so burns with pity have homes to which they retire after the day's toils are over, and those who have no homes have good boarding houses second only to home itself. And here they have just such social enjoyment as they choose to make for themselves. They have "recreation and diversion," as much or more than they could get in a reading room. They visit and are visited. And although working more hours than the laborer ought to work, many of them find time to engage in the active work of the young people's societies, and to attend concerts, lectures, etc. As they respect themselves so are they respected and beloved in society. Daily as I go on the long walk to and from my own work I see daughters whose eyes bespeak a soul within as pure as God's daylight—some alone, and some holding to the arm of a good father or stalwart brother—on their way to and from the mill or factory. I see mothers going there who, if they had a little wealth to add to their intelligence and refinement, could adorn what is termed "the higher circles of society."

I wonder if Mr. Wotherspoon dare stand before the fathers, husbands, or brothers of these wives and daughters, and repeat that any one of their large number can be allured to a life of shame because of no place to find rest, or because of the dereliction of our churches, or of Oregon City's social life outside of the churches? Nay, more—would he dare meet the burning scorn to which he would be treated were he to intimate to any one of our female toilers that which he has put in print? I trow not. His patronizing pity would vanish like the morning mist.

But what is his remedy for the evils he so deplores? A "free public library and reading room!" That is to be the spiritual balsam of life, sent for the healing of the people. All our large cities have one, and some of them several. And yet debauchery and crime of every name exist daily and nightly within their shadow. But here in Oregon City, under the manipulation of Mr. Wotherspoon, it will eliminate all sin, and keep "tired and heart-broken women" from becoming "habitues" of the saloons!

And he will give five dollars to boom a cause that is to transcend in its mighty results all the spiritual and moral philosophy taught and practiced in all the ages. Surely we have the Giant Greatheart in our midst. Let us also have the library, especially if on such "a slender thread hang everlasting things."

The foregoing is substantially what I had written in criticism of Mr. Wotherspoon's assault upon the churches and the character of our laboring women. On the whole I am glad there was not room for it last week. I believe the candid reader will agree with me that I have fully shown his statements are false, and his remedy for real and supposed evils absurd.

It cannot be expected that I will stoop to reply to the billingsgate of which he relieved himself last week. How much it has to do with the matter under discussion the reader must judge. Men have met me on the street, and apparently ashamed of their political cradle, have plead in excuse for him that I "commenced being personal and must expect like treatment in return." It seems impossible for our modern "reformers" to tell the truth, or to comprehend it when told by others. It was Mr. Wotherspoon who, in his opening article that led to this discussion, forsook his text entirely, and led off in a personal attack upon a class of men who, from the very nature of their position, cannot descend to a newspaper wrangle in their own defense. There was not a line in my first article that was personally offensive, only so far as the truth is offensive, except the doggerel rhymes given to illustrate Mr. Wotherspoon's ignorance of the meaning of a word in common use. To soothe his wounded feelings, as well as to mollify the resentment of his friends, I will retract the offensive line and say he doesn't "bark and whine like a dog at the moon."

The common sense reader knows I ASCRIBED my positions, spiced with sarcasm, it is true; and those who cannot see the difference between ridiculing STATEMENTS or OPINIONS that are so weak that they are beneath argument, and blackguarding the PERSON on account of real or imaginary infirmities are such as I do not care to waste words upon. Their good opinion is just as valuable as Mr. Wotherspoon's.

In conclusion, for now and all time: Mr. Wotherspoon charges, and reiterates the charge, that I am opposed to having a free reading room in Oregon City. To characterize this as a lie would be superfluous, for every reader of THE ENTERPRISE knows that I fully endorsed the project in the opening paragraph of my remarks published two weeks ago—spoke of it as "a worthy public measure," said that the editor had advocated it on "sensible grounds," and that what he said in its favor coincided, as I believed, with the views of every good citizen. All this in an article which Mr. Wotherspoon claims to have read several times in order to find out its true meaning. Let the reader take this charge of his and put it with a dozen or more words and sentences which he puts between quotation marks as coming from my article, and which cannot be found there, and then judge if he is the proper man to invent a substitute for the Christian church.

I am in favor of a free reading room in Oregon City, if it can be owned by the city and controlled by its constituted authorities. If it is to be dominated by a clique of petty demagogues who are stealing other people's thunder to make it appear that they are the peculiar friends of "the poor laboring man," then let it die before it is born,—and that is its present status under the manipulation of Wotherspoon and party. The project in its present shape is worthy the genius who has invented the idea that the "tired laborer," if he has one such place of resort, most necessarily become a drunkard. Once in there, with the writings of Herr Most, Lucy Parsons, and W. A. Wotherspoon to read, he is free from temptation. His thirst for strong drink is gone, and his will is mighty. Outside, his will is weak, and he is hopelessly lost! What a compliment to the laboring man, and how thankful he should be that a way of escape from King Alcohol is pointed out to him!

Respectfully submitted. E. WARNER.

## COUNTY NEWS ITEMS.

**Interesting Tid-bits Gathered Buy an Active Corps of Regular Contributors.**

**Needy.**

The good people of Needy, being determined to keep up with the times in patriotism, as well as in the education of their children, turned out in full force on the 22d ultimo and raised the national flag containing forty four stars over the public school building. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather there was a large crowd out to witness the hoisting of the grand old flag. The exercises were interspersed with speeches and music. Mr. I. L. Bower, as chairman, called the people to order with some well chosen remarks, and later Hon. J. H. Wolfer made a rousing speech filled with reason and patriotism, and Mr. S. W. Hardesty made one of his usual happy and entertaining efforts. The meeting was also addressed by W. O. H. Byland. The choir, than which there is none better in this part of the country, led by Mr. Benjamin Smith, sung "America," "Hail Columbia," and "Star Spangled Banner."

At the close of the exercises in the house men, women and children formed themselves in line on the play ground, and as the school master run the banner up to the mast head gave three cheers and a "tiger."

The flag was bought by the school children alone. Mr. Hardesty, merchant of this place, bought it at dealer's price and thereby enabled them to get it cheaper.

During the entire proceedings the greatest enthusiasm and good feeling prevailed, and the determination was freely expressed that as long as District No. 40 has a school house there shall be a flag floating over it while school is in session. Long may it wave!

WITHERS.

**Frog Pond.**

EDITOR OF ENTERPRISE: It has been some time since last you heard from me. I suppose by this time you think I have stopped.

Everything is flourishing in these parts, and these last few days of sunshine make one have the spring fever. I don't know whether editors ever have that or not, but it is a bad disease to catch.

The Tualatin Secular Union met to-day at their usual time with a good crowd of about sixty, mostly young people. Had some fine readings and declamations, and the question box is quite an improvement in the Union. John Tyler was editor of the paper, and he deserves great credit for the able manner in which it was gotten up, and we hope to hear from him some other time.

Oscar Losson has the next paper which will be read three weeks from to-day.

Some of the church flock begin to kick about the Union because they want their young folks to stay away; but they won't. The preacher has not got them under his thumb tight enough.

George Saum's new saw mill will start to-morrow, provided the Almighty will send water enough to start it with. We all wish him the best of success, and hope he will make a go of it.

Fall wheat looks fine around here—better than I have seen any where up the valley.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kruse are going up to Salem to-morrow to visit their son Homer, who has been going to school all winter at the University and taking a musical course under Prof. Parvins. He is one of the class of six that will graduate sometime in June.

The steamers Bently and Northwest had a hot race last week from the docks to Salem. The Northwest came in two lengths ahead and claimed the race.

Yesterday the same two had it again down stream from Buckman's landing to Oregon City, and the Northwest got badly beaten: so now who will carry the broom, Captain Short?

The school in Frog Pond closes next week after having a four months term taught by Miss Alice Downing, one of the best teachers in the county.

The Missouri school closed last week, Mr. A. Wilson being the teacher. He has secured another school near Champoeg, Marion county.

Mr. C. Armstrong, of Canby, will give a dance on the 16th of Ireland in his new house. Every body invited. A good time is looked for.

There will be a surprise party at Mr. John May's next Saturday night, The Frog Pondites will have a glorious time, and don't you forget it. Everybody and his girl will be there.

By the outlook of things in Frog Pond I think Cupid is wielding his dart, and will strike or has struck some one's heart. I think there will be a wedding or two soon. Good luck to the squire. It's easier than hard work, and better pay.

John Seedling will return to Saldern's logging camp next week to go to work. What will Miss Ella do then? Who will be the next crank?

I hear there is to be a divorce case before long in the suburbs of Plattsburg. Who next will be the unlucky one?

Mr. Kizer lost a horse last week from the blind staggers and has three more sick with the same disease.

Tualatin Grange No. 111, P. of H., officers elected and installed for 1891.—R. B. Hensy Master; John Kruse, Overseer; S. L. Hayes, Lecturer; Oscar Larson, Steward; Miss Reda Sharp, Secretary; T. L. Turner, Treasurer; Mrs. A. M. Barnes, Ceres; Mrs. Louisa Kruse, Flora; Miss Ola Barnes, Pomona; Miss Ella Turner, Lady Assistant.

Tualatin Grange meets the last Saturday in each month at 10 o'clock A. M. Always has dinner at the hall. H. S.

March 15, 1891.

**New Era.**

Mrs. W. W. Jesse spent a couple of days last week in Portland visiting with her daughter, Mrs. Billie Bond.

J. C. Newbury, our worthy postmaster, has recently purchased a lot of drugs which will be a great convenience for the people about New Era.

David McArthur, wife and daughter Alice spent Sunday last with the family of E. C. Maddock.

W. S. Rider and Criterson Bros. have got their mill running temporarily and are sawing out the frame for their permanent building.

The school in New Era started again on the 16th, after having been closed for ten days on account of measles. During the time the teacher, Miss Kate Kelso, has been visiting friends in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hougham celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary on Tuesday of last week, which was the most enjoyable occurrence of the season. Several of the neighbors were present and among them were noticed Mrs. W. W. Jesse, Mr. John Kaler and wife, Mr. Wm. Vorpahl and wife, Mr. —— Moudrut and wife, and E. C. Maddock and family. At 12 o'clock the friends were invited to a repast such as one seldom has the opportunity of seeing. Mrs. Hougham is one of the finest cooks in the state, and it was no effort for her to spread one of the finest meals which all partook of freely. The event went off in joy and mirth, and all departed wishing that Mr. and Mrs. Hougham might live to enjoy the forty-second anniversary of their union.

Mrs. Brown, of Portland, has a carpenter at work building a residence on the spiritual camp ground, preparatory for the June camp meeting which it is reported will hold for one month this season.

Nine hundred sacks of potatoes were shipped from New Era on Tuesday of last week, all consigned to one firm in San Francisco.

Fred Moshuk purchased one day last week five head of cattle from August Bremer, which he intends to fatten for the Oregon City market this spring.

Prof. W. H. Dobyns, of Albina, spent last Saturday night and Sunday with your correspondent. He is still principal of the Multnomah school of his city, and reports his school in splendid progress. He intends having twelve acres of hops planted on his farm here this spring, and thinks he will erect a residence on his South Oregon City property in the near future. The professor is wide awake, and we wish him success.

SHORTY.

March 16, 1891.

**Fairview.**

Fairview has made quite a brisk beginning of late. At the annual school meeting a two hundred dollar tax was voted for the purpose of reseating the school house.

Mr. Hunter has sold part of his farm to Mr. May for fifty dollars an acre, making a consideration of $2,500.

The location of the post office at this place has been changed from Mr Hunter's farm to the place formerly called the Eaton farm.

The few fine days of this week have made the hooter grouse begin his song.

Several persons in this neighborhood have started the plow for spring crops.

The next thing we want here is a man to start a store on Mr. Graham's corner, near the church, and to take charge of the Carus post office. It seems like a person might do pretty well with a store there, especially if he kept candy and gloves—boxing gloves, I mean. Mr. Graham could put up a harness shop, John Jones a blacksmith shop, and Mr. C. F. Vanderahe could start a bank, and we would have a town before the outside world could know of our existence. Two saw mills are not far from here, the owners of which would be glad to furnish the lumber.

Mr. Wm. Bucher has a tan yard not far from here. He has about thirty hides in the tan now. He thinks of selling part of his farm.

Dr. J. Casto is having considerable slashing done on his Alpine farm. He has let a contract of fifteen acres, and also another of seven or eight acres. He has about fifteen acres already slashed. The place will soon resemble Bald Hill again, the name it went by years ago. SPLASH.

**Plattsburg Ramblings.**

Lewis Platt sold his crop of potatoes to Mr. Shire, of Butteville.

We understand Mr. A. Williams has accepted a position in Ira Powers' Furniture store, Portland.

Geo. H. Dunn has been engaged to teach the spring term of school at the Clarkes district, to begin April 13th, as soon as he closes his school at Plattsburg.

The broken down bridge near A. Peters has been rebuilt, and the road is now in good order.

Considerable produce is being shipped from Plattsburg, from one to three boats passing each way daily. The several wood yards are doing a rushing business, the dairy men are sending milk direct to Portland and altogether the burg presents a lively appearance. HORNETTE.

**Cherryville Chats.**

Elder S. Keels disappointed us in not fulfilling a series of evening discourses. But it was not through lack of faithfulness or energy. He came as far as East Portland and mounted the Sandy hack, but ascertained before passing the suburbs that on account of deep snows on the foot hills the hack could go only to Gresham. So he wisely postponed his mission until April 11th.

Since certain railroad lands have got back to government, many are watching the opportunity to take advantage of the unwary and seize upon land in a manner not always honorable. It is an old saying that the foulest murders and biggest steals are performed under sanction of the law.

The Christian church is flourishing. It has purchased two acres up at the section corner for a grave yard and church site and will build a house thereon in the future.

**Mink Matters.**

M. Moehnke raised his barn last week. It is octagonal in shape and when finished will be one of the finest barns in the country.

The most notable event of the season is a daughter at the home of Wesley Hill. Mother and child are doing well.

Mr. Hanson lost five head of horses, which is pretty hard on a poor man.

Mrs. W. Kirk is still confined to the house from the effects of the measles.

Mr. Martin Hill is quite sick with Bronchitis.

Mr. V. Bobtander is again confined to his bed, from which it is not expected that he will rise again, as he is about seventy-three years old.

Farmers here are talking of organizing to protect themselves fro m being robbed by the grist mills, as they think they are getting nothing but second grade flour. The first grade they sell to the city people and the farmer must do with anything. Why is it that when farmers talk of organizing people say there is use they will not stick together. I think it is time they did work together, as they are imposed upon enough to break the camel's back.

Mr. Wm. Guenther is having some trouble with a certain sewing machine company. He gave his note for a machine and the note turns out to be different from the one he signed, so he claims. Beware of agents and be sure you know what you are signing.

Ever night the band meets there is music in the air in all directions, while the boys are on the way to their hall.

GAS.

**Meadow Brook.**

MR. EDITOR: The compliments in your last issue on we knights of the quill, or amateur reporters, should not make us egotistic, but rather make us redouble our efforts to gather only the freshest and brightest news for the columns of your valuable and newsy journal.

A very entertaining and literary program was rendered at the meeting of our lyceum last week. Considerable talent was shown by the editor of the lyceum paper.

On the 20th instant the question for discussion is, "Resolved, That intemperance is a greater evil than war." For the affirmative, W. W. Pulley, P. E. Bonney, U. S. Dix. For the negative, E. A. Wright, G. S. Bonney, J. H. Wright.

The mock divorce case on the lyceum docket for Friday the 27th instant, will take place at Bethel school house on Thursday, March 26th, at 7 o'clock P. M. The change is made on account of the school concert which will take place on the evening of the 27th. Please remember this change, and be on hand early and receive a cordial welcome.

Mr. Wm. Bonney, jr., and mother, of French prairie, came up on the 14th instant to visit their relatives and pay their respects to their nephew and grandson, Baby Pulling.

Several parties who have been to Oregon City via Clark's during the last two weeks, report a case of criminal carelessness. The road between J. J. Gard's and Grossmiller's, near the farm of a Mr. Myers, is blockaded by a large tree felled by some party ten day. ago, and at last accounts not removed. Wagons and other vehicles passing that way had to run over logs two feet high, and among brush and limbs at the immediate risk of crippling a horse and breaking a vehicle. Our last legislature made it a misdemeanor to drive cattle over a road thereby rolling stones into or in any way obstructing a public thoroughfare, unless removed within twenty-four hours. What a boon if there had been a clause making the same applicable to obstructing roads by felling trees.

Rev. J. H. Hargreaves preached at the Gorbett school house on the 15th at 11 A. M. and at Bethel at 7 P. M. to a crowded house, from the text, St. Luke, 16:22. He left the following appointments: at Gorbett's third Saturday, 7 P. M.; third Sunday, 11 A. M. At Bethel at 4 P. M. of third Sabbath in April.

Last week a letter was delivered from this post office bearing the following rare and elegant address: "mr. g—— k——, melobrok, molally post offire." Only that, and nothing more.

Grass is growing and brush is budding or leaving out, which causes those ranchers whose feed is about evaporated to wear a cheerful phiz.

Mr. George Ball was the guest of J. C. Hall last Sunday. Accept our congratulations, George; and don't forget us when the cards are issued.

Our friend Will Baker who has been on a brief sojourn near the metropolis of Clackamas county, is again at home.

The finger boards at Clark's and Likewise's, the handiwork of Mr. Likewise, fill a long felt want, and are quite artistic.

Frank Ayers has been unwell for several days, but at this writing is much better.

We trust that the road supervisor here will soon fill up some of our mud holes.

PHOENIX.

March 18, 1890.

**That Free Reading Room.**

TO THE EDITOR:

In connection with the proposition to establish and maintain a free reading room in our town the Methodist Episcopal church has been frequently mentioned. Men outside of our councils seem to know more about our decisions than those who are charged with the direction of affairs. Between a "dressing down" in a public meeting and a certain correspondence in your paper we are being somewhat maligned. I readily concede that the whole thing only illustrates the saying of a celebrated writer that "while the understanding is powerful, the misunderstanding is more powerful." By your permission I rise to announce that no action to rent the old church for a reading room has been taken by our official board, nor have we had the matter before us except in the most informal manner, unauthorized statements to the contrary, notwithstanding.

I endorse the reading room proposition, and stand ready to help it. It will do some good. But I must add that its effects on private virtue and public morality can hardly be expected to fulfil the prediction of one of your correspondents; and to make it a rider for irrelevant and absurd remarks on the benevolent work of the church, and the studious habits of the christian ministry, is cause for profound regret. Every man is entitled to his opinions, however radical; but to make a free library plea the occasion of their ventilation is to to say the least not good taste. Yours truly.

JOHN PARSONS.

The pupils on the roll of honor in District No. 53, for month ending February 27, are Lizeie Jenning, Robert Wright, Laura Wright, and Willie Edgecomb.

TENNIE MAYFIELD, Teacher.