

Local and Personal.

Everybody is glad that the weather has moderated.

Persons interested in poultry might find it beneficial to read L. C. Hoover's advertisement.

D. E. Williams of Missouri was married to Miss Clara Clapp yesterday Rev. L. C. Hoover officiating.

The Odd Fellows will have a banquet in their hall here next Friday night for the membership of the fraternity.

Halley's Comet can be seen in the West of evenings and in the East of mornings when the weather is clear.

J. L. Montgomery, A. D. Johnson and Frank Taylor, commercial men from Portland, were looking after business here, Tuesday.

L. G. North and C. W. Ladd, real estate dealers from Portland were in town Tuesday, on their way to look after some business at Yaquina.

Luther Ground, is visiting in Portland this week having gone there Sunday. He was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Ford.

Literary Society Organized

On Dec. 23, a meeting of the students of the High School was called to make preliminary arrangements for organizing a literary society.

Ray Chute was chosen chairman protem and Ruby Laurence secretary protem.

Little could be done further than to appoint a committee to draft a constitution.

Lorraine Johnson, Irvin Springer and Agnes Clark were chosen for this purpose, and the meeting adjourned to be called again on Dec. 24.

On the date named the committee presented a constitution which, with the exception of a few clauses was accepted by a majority vote. Officers were then elected as follows: Lorena Daniels, President; Wilbur Powell, Vice President; Ruby Laurence, Secretary; Mildred Force, Assistant Secretary; Olea Shore, Treasurer; Principal A. L. Clark, Anna L. Godburson and Henry Hathaway, Critics; Naomi R. Stengel, Editor; Grace Fugate, Agnes Clark and Ervin Springer, Program committee.

The constitution was voted to go into effect at once and thus the old year gave birth to an organization which we hope will prove vigorous and beneficial.

Early in the week following the holidays a program appeared on the bulletin board. Its bright heading of holly and flying bells attracted passers and announced to certain students that they would be required to participate in the exercises on Friday, January 14.

On the afternoon of the day appreciated the students again assembled in Anna Godburson's room. After the house was called to order business matters were promptly and satisfactorily dispatched. Among other events of importance on that day the society received its name, "Ciceronian."

The opening address, by the president should receive special mention as in it was set forth the purpose of the society. Miss Daniels called the attention of the students to the great need every individual has for a knowledge of parliamentary laws and proceedings, emphasizing the stress that all schools from the grammar to the university place on this phase of their work. The ability to appear in public whether to ex-

press opinions on matters of present issue or by some form of entertainment to give pleasure or information to an audience was another point brought out in Miss Daniels address.

The remainder of the program was rendered, and though short gave evidence that excellent work may be done in the future.

A program for January 28 has been placed on the bulletin board by the committee who should be commended for their promptness.

Patrons and friends of the school are cordially invited to attend.

Is Entitled to Good Roads.

If good roads will lessen the cost of hauling the products of the farm to market half, they are worth far more than they cost; but there is more difference than that. Between a very bad road and a first-class road there is said to be a difference of ten to one in favor of the good road. With such figures staring one in the face it is business in an emphatic manner to see that the country gets the best roads possible.

Already the Linn County roads are pretty good. Our soil is such that with fair attention a road can be kept in splendid condition, a fact demonstrated by the Tangent road, over which in the wettest weather of the winter farmers experience no trouble in getting into Albany with heavy loads. The entire county should be gradually covered, good roads being made an issue. The farmer is entitled to the improvement at the expense of the people, and it is time an issue was made of the fact.—Albany Democrat.

HOW A TRADITION BECAME A CERTAINTY

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN.
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When about 1830 in Virginia a little girl baby came to Colonel and Mrs. St. Leger the colonel, whose ancestors had come to Virginia from Georgia, insisted on naming his daughter after the latter state. Little Georgia was assigned a nurse, a slave named Rose. There are certain children who seem to have been transplanted from heaven, and Georgia was one of them. From the time she could toddle she was adored by her father's slaves, first of all by her "mummy." She was an only child and heir to one of the finest estates in the Old Dominion.

When Georgia became of a marriageable age she had many suitors, from among whom she chose Edgar Bedell, a young attorney. Bedell's ancestors had lived in the north from the time they had landed in America in 1630. After being graduated at college he had gone south to tutor the sons of a wealthy planter, meanwhile studying law at the University of Virginia. Colonel St. Leger made it a condition of his marriage with Georgia that he should remain in the south.

In a year a child was born to them. It lived only two days, but the brief stay of the little stranger in its passage from the known to the unknown made a great change for the young couple—that is, a great change occurred at that time, for before the mother appeared again to the world the father had left Virginia for his former home in the north, never to return. No one outside the manor house saw Mrs. Bedell for many months after her confinement, and when she resumed her position as a well woman she neither visited nor received any except the slaves on the plantation. Among these she went as before, but with a blighted look on her face. No cause was given for the change in her or the departure and continued absence of her husband. Whether her father and mother were cognizant of it no one knew, but it was evident that the blight, whatever it was, had fallen on them as well as on the young couple.

Ten years passed, and a new generation was growing up. Those bearing of the Bedell case, as it was called, naturally assumed that something to the discredit of one or the other had occasioned the separation of the wedded pair. But if such were the case nothing that gave color to this sus-

picion ever leaked out. Besides, those who had known Mrs. Bedell as Georgia St. Leger would not admit that anything discreditable could ever be attributed to her, and, as for her husband, a planter returning from the north reported him as a prominent and much esteemed member of the bar of New York.

Bedell had spoken in the highest terms of his wife, but did not even refer to the cause that had separated them. Mrs. Bedell never mentioned her husband, but did not give out the slightest hint that she had any cause to be dissatisfied with him.

Colonel St. Leger died and was soon followed by his wife, leaving Mrs. Bedell a large estate. She left its management to an overseer who had long enjoyed her father's confidence. This was noted by many who were hungry for her secret, they having been curious after her father's death to know if Bedell would not return and manage the estate for her.

Mrs. Bedell died at the opening of the civil war. Her husband was present at her funeral. Many hoped that he would at last drop some hint as to the cause of his having left his wife, but he spoke never a word and as soon as the burial had taken place left for his home. He was followed the next day by a letter from an attorney stating that his wife had left him her entire estate.

Bedell never took possession of the property till four or five years later, when it was nearly worthless. He became a prominent Federal officer in the civil war and on one occasion encamped his troops on his own plantation. When he did take his inheritance he cut it up into small homes for those former slaves who remained upon it, giving each negro a title to his land. Bedell died ten years after the close of the war.

It seemed that with the death of the last person interested in the curious affair the secret would be buried forever. The very reverse of this occurred. Martha, Mrs. Bedell's "mummy," knew all and had been enjoined by her mistress to make it known after the death of all concerned should she live so long. Martha gave the explanation immediately after Bedell's death.

When the child of Mr. and Mrs. Bedell was born Rose was astonished to note certain marks upon it indicating that there was a trace in it of negro blood. She had endeavored to conceal these marks from the mother, but failed. Mrs. Bedell discovered them, and the effect upon her may be readily understood. The ancestry of the child's father was above reproach, but far back in the St. Leger family was a tradition that was made a certainty in the birth of this little innocent. Bedell had been willing and anxious to remain with his wife, but the effect upon her, taught by environment as well as by heredity to consider the black blood in her veins a taint, was far too serious to permit the sacrifice. She insisted on his never seeing her again, offering to assist him in securing a divorce, an offer he declined to accept.

The Fraction.

"Humble as I am," said a loud voiced orator at a meeting, "I still remember that I am a fraction of this magnificent empire."

"You are, indeed," said a bystander, "and a vulgar one at that."—London Express.

Curious.

If a man is bettered his condition is improved; if he is "bested" he is really "worsted."

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