

# Arlington Advocate,

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**WATER DAMAGES.**—We clip from the *Sunday Herald* the following in regard to the recent hearing on the Arlington water damage cases:

The hearing was opened on Monday, Dec. 13, and for a number of days was at the office of Mr. Merwin, No. 40 State street, being then adjourned to the Supreme Court room, where the testimony was concluded on Wednesday of last week. The arguments will be presented on Saturday, Jan. 8th, at the latter place. The owners of the different privileges were represented by Judges J. G. Abbott and H. J. Wells, and the town by Judge B. F. Thomas and John H. Hardy, Esq., the attorney of the town. The cases in question grew out of the taking by the town of a certain water-shed lying between Arlington and East Lexington, and known as the "Great Meadows," for the purpose of introducing into the town a supply of fresh water. The authority for such action is contained in the first section of chapter 245 of the acts of 1871, which reads as follows: "The Arlington lake water company may take, hold and convey into and through the town of Arlington the waters of Sucker brook and the tributaries thereof of the springs brooks and water-shed of the meadows lying near said Sucker brook, and its tributaries of the Great Meadows, lying in the easterly part of the town of Lexington, from Lewis' mills or any point westerly of said mills, for the purpose of collecting a supply of pure water for the inhabitants of the town of Arlington."

The act contained further enabling sections, the sixth providing that the town of Arlington might, at any time after the passage of the act, purchase of the said corporation its franchises and property in the manner provided in chapter 93 of the acts of 1870. The town accordingly, having purchased of the company all its franchise and property, obtained from the legislature, in 1873, an act confirmed and ratifying this purchase, and conferring upon the town certain powers and rights, and imposing upon it certain duties, of the sort that would naturally suggest themselves in such cases. On June 19, 1873, the town took the land located across Sucker brook, and on July 8th the Great Meadows, and on Oct. 17th the Slocumb, or, as it was formerly called, the Lewis mill property, already, on July 1, 1872, completed a reservoir for the reception of the water, laid pipes and made general preparations for the introduction of water into the town.

In this condition of affairs, the owners

located was of a very inconstant character, frequently becoming nearly dry in the summer months, and generally every year during those months affording but a small amount of power; that in addition to the water shed taken, there existed another located below the first, and which gave to the petitioners a good and valuable water power.

The testimony of numerous past assessors and real estate owners of the town was also put in and placed the estimates of the market value of the different mill privileges at a figure far below that claimed by their owners.

The expert testimony was to the effect that the amount of power contended for by the petitioners was greatly in excess of that which was actually in existence in the stream. It appeared in evidence mill owners in general were in the habit of rating the amount of their available power at too high a figure and also that the cheapness of steam power, and the increased facilities for railroad transportation had contributed largely to diminish the value of such small water powers as these were claimed to be, and of those similarly situated.

These cases have excited considerable discussion in the town for the past year or two, and the result is looked for by the inhabitants with a good deal of interest.

**PUBLIC INSTALLATION.**—Bethel Lodge room was filled to its utmost capacity last Wednesday evening, by the friends and members of the lodge, to witness the public installation of the newly chosen and appointed officers. The exercises were very interesting, and were listened to with deep attention. G. D. Deputy Smith, officiated as installing officer, and was ably assisted by the corps of representatives from the Grand Lodge, who sustained the subordinate positions. During the exercises a quartette, composed of Messrs. Wood, Rawson, Proctor and Russell, sang the odes and other selections, and Messrs. Wood and Rawson sang a duet. The music furnished was most excellent, and added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. Mr. Prentiss presided at the organ. At the conclusion of the installation exercises, Mr. William Parkman, from Boston, was introduced, and delivered an address, and was followed by another representative of our own town, also spoke referring pleasantly to the early days of the order. The speakers all received the marked attention of the audience. The following is the full list of officers for the ensuing term:

- N. G.—S. E. Kimball.
- V. G.—J. H. Peabody.
- R. Sec'y.—W. W. Rawson.
- Treas.—W. L. Clark.
- Trustees.—D. MacFarlane, Wm. H. Siles, S. C. Winneck.
- W.—John C. Hill.
- C.—Thomas Higgins.
- R. S. N. G.—Duncan MacFarlane.
- L. S. N. G.—Frank Wyman.
- R. S. V. G.—Rollo Puffer.
- L. S. V. G.—James G. Waman.
- S. S.—George Morrison, Chas. Gott, I. G.—W. S. Swett.
- O. G.—John W. Marsh.

**POLICE RECORD.**—We are indebted to Mr. John Hartwell, Chief of Police, for the following items in regard to his department for the year 1875:—

**THE CONCERT.**—Next Tuesday evening the grand event of the Bethel Lodge course will take place, and will consist of a concert by the Camilla Urso Troupe. The troupe consists of Madame Urso, Miss Clara Poole, Mr. J. C. Bartlett, Mr. Gaston Gottschalk, and Mr. Auguste Sauret. The members of the quartette, although young, are educated musicians, with fresh and rich voices, which blend admirably; and under the experienced direction of Madame Urso, they form the most perfect vocal quartette organization that has ever appeared before the Lyceum audiences of this country. The programme arranged is rich and varied, and will furnish a rich musical treat, in which all who can should participate.

**NEW HOSE COMPANY.**—We mentioned in our last issue, the disbanding of No. 3 Hose Co. Last Saturday evening, a number of our citizens assembled in the hose house hall, joined the fire department, and organized as Wm Penn Hose Co., No. 3. The following is the list of officers and members:

- Foreman.—L. A. Holt.
- Asst Foreman.—G. P. Peirce.
- Clerk and Treasurer.—W. A. Peirce.
- Steward.—Albert Needham.
- Members.—Samuel B. Gate, Joseph W. Rocco, W. J. Dinsmore, Geo. W. Corbett, Jr., James Hogan, Lucius I. Harris, Thomas Kent, W. H. Rankin.
- Substitutes.—C. S. Ober, C. Howard Jones.

Several of the above have had large experience as firemen, and when by practice the new company come to understand their duties, it will be likely to take a front rank.

**TOWN PRIVILEGE.**—The first meeting of the Massachusetts Rule Association, under their new charter, was held at Spy Pond, Saturday afternoon. The day was favorable and unfavorable—favorable because it was clear and the gentlemen did not shiver with the cold as on their last previous meeting, and unfavorable because, with their winter clothing and the attending excitement, they perspired somewhat too freely.

The number in attendance and shooting was about 50 per cent. larger than ever and, with a few exceptions, the practice was better than ever before.

Maj. Henry Fulton of the New York team was among the new comers, and shot a string, but was not attended, with his usual good fortune. A meeting of the directors was held during the afternoon, but they transacted no business of public interest. The next meeting for practice will be held on the 12th instant.

(Correspondence.)

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,  
Dec. 30th, 1875.

Among the useless and condemned vessels sold by our government at the close of the war, was the steamer *Fanchall*, a gift from Commodore Vanderbilt to the government for the special purpose of capturing the Alabama, which she did not do. She was purchased by the Howe Brothers, for a small sum, and at great expense was altered for merchant service, and named the *Three Brothers*, for the owners, Jabez, George and Edward. She is 335 feet in length, 190 feet from deck to main truck, or top of mainmast; her main yard 110 feet

though they had often heard of it before, and when we read of the mercury sinking to 25 and 35 below zero in New England, and then see the open doors and windows, the traveller seeking the shady side of the streets, little children playing bare-headed in the parks and gardens, it does not seem possible that we are in nearly the same latitude. The "Chinese quarters" are gradually growing in size, and some portions of Dupont street are as thoroughly "Celestial" as Canton or Peking can be. They make the best of house servants, faithful and clean in their work, and very many of them are so employed in this city.

A ride to the Cliff house, with a look at the seals and sealions, as they sport in the water and on the rocks, must be always taken by strangers visiting here, and it is a novelty to any one, more especially from an inland town like Chicago. At your feet break the waves of the Pacific, and as you look out over the waters, you can easily imagine the shores of China and Japan looming up in the distance, where sky and water meet, and as you sit in the dining room on the verge of the cliff on this winter's day, the dash of the breakers on beach and rock is borne in at the open windows, and the deep boom and roar almost prevents conversation.

**INCREASE OF CRIME.**—It does seem difficult to call our civilization a success in the face of the fact that crime is constantly on the increase, and that this increase is not in the border states or the frontier cities of the country, but in those localities which, from the early colonial times, have enjoyed the privileges of education both secular and religious. Right here in Massachusetts, which is supposed to be leavened through and through with the old Puritan reverence for God and practice of righteousness, the cost of crime has more than doubled during the past ten years.

It strikes us painfully to be told that crime in Massachusetts is thirty-three per cent. greater than in Ireland, and that life and property are more insecure here to-day than in Italy. Such statistics as Mr. Angel produced in his late address before Teachers' Association denigrate the gaudy bubbles of our complacency in a most cruel fashion. If the diligent student of moral reform continues to collect his facts and publish them in volleys, as he seems likely to do, the very fronts of our palatial churches will shrivel up and recoil at the explosion. The fact is, even Massachusetts is in a bad way morally.

Counting supreme indifference to religious doctrines as one part of heathenism, Boston is more heathen than Christian to-day. Figures do not lie when properly arranged; and the figures are against us. And the worst of it is, they are growing, day by day more and more against us.—*Golden Rule*

The Sunday School connected with the Unitarian church, held their regular monthly concert at their vestry last Sunday afternoon, the attendance being quite large. The exercises consisted of pieces spoken by the members of the school, some being illustrative of the New Year, and addresses by the pastor and Mr. Stowe. After the addresses, Mr. Cutter proceeded to give out presents to those who had not been absent during the year.

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