

Arlington Advocate,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY
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and Agent for the

Arlington Press Association.

OFFICE.

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ARLINGTON, JAN. 29, 1876.

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TOWN OFFICERS.

We understand that parties are already making up their dates for town officers. In the first place, we think this is rather early, and we do not believe in thus forestalling the action of a citizens' caucus, which most certainly will be called in due and proper time. Offices should seek the men, and not men the offices. For Selectmen, we want men of honesty and large business experience, both as regards town affairs and money transactions, regardless of mere party proclivities. In one word, we want the best men of the town to be the fathers of the town. It is more than absurd to put inexperienced men in this position; it is almost criminal, simply because the aspirants have an itching for office holding, and can influence a few friends to pull the wires and get up a parlor nomination. The true interest of the town demands that such men should be effectually shelved,—we want none of them.

Mismanagement, misgovernment, and we are sorry to say, dishonesty, has become a prominent feature in the condition of both public and private affairs. It is notorious that men obtain office, not for personal honor and the good of the community, but for a chance to get a fat job, and make a nice thing of the position. These are the men who seek the office, the men who pull the wires and get up bar room and parlor nominations; these are the men who have an axe to grind, and who are always waiting to embrace an opportunity, having an eye single for the loaves and fishes. We do not wish to be understood that Arlington is especially cursed with this class of would-be-office-holders, but we do wish to protest against anything which even squints in that direction; we would avoid the very appearance of evil.

The importance of choosing the right men for the Selectmen of the town, cannot be over-estimated by the tax-payers. A faithful discharge of the duties, strict economy in conducting every department, a practical knowledge of what is required, and how it best can be accomplished, joined to a liberal spirit for needed improvements and necessary reforms, is absolutely requisite. Can we expect all these from a new Board, and from men entirely inexperienced in town affairs, no matter how honest they may be and desirous of doing their duty. This brings us directly to the point. In our opinion, unless for cause, only one on a Board of Selectmen should be changed each year, two should hold over, or if a change

Mr. John Russell, in which he gives the town a deed of about 14 acres of land for seven hundred and fifty dollars and costs, and it is estimated by good judges, there is at least \$300 worth of wood as it now stands on land, leaving the actual damage on price of land to be paid about \$450; we have also by advice of council and by our judgment, settled and agreed to pay Mr. Schwaub for his mill property and all the building mill privilege, 2½ acres of land, he, the said Schwaub, to give the Town a deed of the property for the sum of \$9,250.

Five awards have been made for land damages, by a commission appointed by the Court. One to Mr. Blodgett, for \$10,300 and costs, and one to the Messrs. Reed, of \$4,750, which your commissioners consider exorbitant, and have not settled or come to any agreement to settle their claims. The balance of claims for land damages are all small lots, principally of meadow land, and are owned, as far as your Commissioners have been able to ascertain, by the following persons, viz: Elijah Cutter, W. L. Smith, Billings Smith, Jeremiah Russell, A. P. Bartlett, heirs of Chas. Crane, Timothy Eaton, Mrs. Stone, heirs of Thomas Teel, Nathaniel Hill, Miss Gammell, Nathaniel Peirce, Eben Peirce, J. A. P. Peirce, C. M. Winship, Bryant & Osborne. The Commissioners have conferred with nearly all the above named owners of land, who are willing to settle for the average price others have received for similar kind of land. We have now on hand and unexpended, as seen by this report, \$6119.96, and in order to go on and settle further and standing claims for land damages, it will be necessary to make further appropriation by the town.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

B. POLAND,
JOHN FILLBROWNS,
GEORGE HILL,

Water Commissioners.

At the conclusion of the report, the "water question" was discussed by several gentlemen present, the general tone being that it was for the interest of the Town to settle where it was possible, rather than engage in law-suits. The report of the Water Commissioners was accepted, and placed on file, and on motion of Hon. John Schouler, it was

Voted.—That the Water Commissioners be authorized to settle with Mr. Blodgett, by paying the award of the Commissioners, and the Commissioners are authorized to purchase fifteen acres located in the **Star** of the land taken by the town for the sum of \$500, he giving a warranted deed for the land taken and purchased; and the Water Commissioners are authorized to release to Mr. Blodgett one acre more or less of land, located near the reclaimed meadow land, and being a part of the land first taken by the town.

Art. 3. To see if the town will appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand dollars for the settlement of claims arising from the introduction of water.

On motion of Mr. Wm. G. Peck, it was

Voted.—That the sum of fourteen thousand dollars be and is hereby appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Water Commissioners, for the purpose of settling claims arising from the introduction of water, and the Board of Selectmen and Town Treasurer, are hereby authorized to issue and dispose of Arlington Water Scrip,

her fairy subject were Georgia Frost, Nettie Weds, Hattie Swan, Addie Proctor, Nellie Robbins and Mamie Teel. The costumes were nearly all alike, and were very appropriate and handsome. Little Miss Lulu Russell performed the part of "Puck," in a sprightly and becoming manner. The "mortals" were Miss Cora Green, who enacted the part of the poor widow, mother of Carl (Fred Rich) and Anna (Allie Morton); Peter Grim, (Herbert Pattee) the hard-hearted miser, and a troupe of village children. All we have mentioned, with one exception, we believe, sang solos or engaged in the slight dialogue which runs through the piece, and acquitted themselves well. One of the village children, Master Edgar Parker, was assigned two little solos, which he sang well. The choruses were well sustained throughout, and all who took part are deserving of much praise. Mrs. E. C. Graves presided at the pianoforte, and added materially to the success of the performance. Although we have not space to go into the full details, we must speak of the closing scene, "The Fairy Grotto." It was arranged with much taste, and when filled with the beautiful and varied costumes of the youthful performers, and lighted with the brilliant green and red lights from the wings of the stage, presented a picture which enabled each and all to carry away a pleasant remembrance of the occasion.

No. 4.—Wednesday evening, Hiram Lodge gave its fourth entertainment of the season, in their lodge room. Part first consisted of a concert, and the quartette engaged were Mrs. G. W. Beardsly, soprano; Miss Ella Cleveland, contralto; Mr. Percy J. J. Cooper, tenor; Mr. W. H. Hunt, basso and humorist. Miss Emma Parker filled the position of accompanist.

The programme which consisted of fourteen pieces, commenced with a quartette, and was followed with a tenor solo by Mr. Cooper, a very good substitute for Mr. Wiggin, the gentleman who was expected. The selections were varied and excellent, especially the "Bright Beyond," by Miss Cleveland, and "Then you'll remember me," by Mr. Cooper. Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Beardsly were almost inimitable in their rendering of "Master and Scholar," "Don't Marry," and "Jamie and Jennie," and the audience heartily appreciated them. Unfortunately, Mr. Hunt had accidentally left his music in Boston, but in place of songs, he gave recitations, etc., all of which were complex and enjoyable. The "Laughing Trio," by Mrs. Beardsly, Miss Cleveland and Mr. Hunt, we considered the gem of the evening. There was no "make believe" to the laughter of the audience which followed the piece all through, and burst into roars at its close. Miss Parker, the accompanist, entertained the audience with several piano solos, and showed herself a brilliant performer. She was twice encored. The audience was larger than on any previous occasion, and the "hop" which followed was very enjoyable.

THE BIBLE.—It is one of the characteristics of the Bible, that it is written as if its object were to get work out of men. It exhorts every faculty to action.

ENTERTAINMENT.—Thursday evening the parlors of the Unitarian Church were crowded with an audience called together to witness the performance of a programme arranged for their entertainment by the committee. It opened with a very prettily rendered solo by Miss Lawrence, and Alfred Norton, Esq., followed with a reading, and Rev. G. W. Cutter performed a violin solo in so fine a manner as to call forth a hearty encore, to which he cheerfully responded. The principal features of the evening were tableaux and recitations, illustrative of the seven ages, from childhood to old age, each in their turn reciting some verses of poetry appropriate to the character assumed. It was a pleasant, instructive, and enjoyable affair throughout.

ESCAPED.—Among the savings institutions from which the Rev. Winslow endeavored to extract funds was the Arlington Savings Bank. Friday morning we were shown the letter he addressed to the bank officers, and the showing he made was about the same which was so successful in other cases, but here he failed. The loan was respectfully declined.

EIGHTH ANNUAL.—Bethel Lodge have made arrangements for their eighth annual social levee. It will be held in Town Hall, on the evening of Tuesday, February 15, and will be one of the most brilliant parties of the season. The invitations and tickets are already in the hands of the members. Both are fine specimens of ball printing.

BURST.—Some time during last Sunday night the water pipes in Mr. Tilson's new house, on Charlestown street, burst, and flooded a portion of the house. The frescoing in the parlors was ruined, and the furniture was considerably damaged.

Compulsory voting is advocated as a cure for political evils by Mr. Bethune, a member of the Ontario Legislature. He has introduced a bill which would punish by a fine of five dollars, every man who might vote but would not.

FOUND PARTY.—This is the name selected by the management for a very pleasant party and sociable which will come off next Monday evening, in Menotomy Hall, under the auspices of Mt. Horeb Lodge, L. O. I. Ticket can be obtained of the members.

The arguments in the water cases were delivered last Monday, in the Supreme Court room, Boston. A very large number of our citizens attended, and listened to the speakers with much attention. The action of the Commissioners is anxiously looked for.

The lecture committee of Bethel Lodge informs us that after paying all the expense of their course, there are \$60 remaining in the treasury.

We call the attention of our readers who have surplus funds they desire to place in a perfectly secure institution, to the card in another column, of the Mercantile Savings Institution of Boston. With a guarantee fund of over \$200,000, it affords perfect security to its depositors.

In this organization as "M. people" sing are week T. vitation rill, and pleastu evening taimed of to attend supper formers ment, b most h

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