

The Highland Park News.

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LEWIS B. HIBBARD - EDITOR.
H. F. EVANS - BUSINESS MANAGER.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1896.

ONE year ago last Sunday, Dec. 13th; Milton C. Lightner died, and there passed out of the business life of this city one of its ablest men. But life has gone on with most of us as though nothing had happened. By and by, reader, you and I will drop out, and the world will go on in the same way.

ONE year ago yesterday, Dec. 17th, President Cleveland issued his Venezuela message, which threw two continents into wild commotion and all the jingoes in the land "smelt powder" of a great war between England and America. Today, the Venezuela question of 40 years' standing is settled; peaceful arbitration secured, and the two great English-speaking nations are better friends than ever. That is statesmanship.

A MAN said to us a week or more ago, that Mr. So and So might sue him, if he wished, he could not collect anything. That was as much as to say he owed the bill, but he intended to beat him out if he could. In other words, he would pay his bills only when the law compelled him to do so. He would run bills anywhere he could, and then not pay them unless the law compelled him. That may do for the worthless, professional dead-beat, but an honest man, one who proposes to live here many years, can't work that game successfully. A reputation for honesty and sobriety is all the capital some men have, but it is worth much to them.

THE NEWS is in receipt of an extended apology and defense of M. B. Madden, who poses as a candidate for United States Senator. From this pamphlet we conclude the reputation of Mr. Madden is none too savory. That settles it. We care nothing about his party or his politics. The great state of Illinois is not so hard up as to be obliged to take up with men for that exalted position who are on the defensive as respects their reputation and character. Let the man who would represent the Empire State of the West in the senate be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion.

We cannot give today the average cost per mile for grading and graveling a street with Half-day bank gravel after the manner of Highwood. But the experiment up there has proved successful so far; in most places a grand success. The cost is very low compared with our Park macadam plan. We wish that the old Milwaukee road south from the City Hall to Deerfield ave. or even First street from Goldberg's corner to Deerfield ave. could be graded and paralleled and let us see if we can't have fine streets without bankrupting all the property owners.

We mean grade and gravel when the people there want those streets improved, as some of them do now.

The bad condition of Prospect avenue especially near Geo. D. Boulton's and Dr. Babcock's demands some consideration. The paving of that street was not a success. But what shall be done now; what is the best, cheapest and most enduring remedy? The street was graded down too low in those places as elsewhere so that the permanent water-line in hard clay is up too near the surface of the street and in heavy rains or protracted seasons of wet weather, the water line is above the level of the street, hence the street in those places is wet and muddy and the gravel is soft and spongy under the macadam. Now the available remedy is to put a three inch drain tile in the center of the street, or better two drains, one five feet on each side of the center line ex-

tending east and west some six or eight rods and at least two feet below the surface. Have the starting point against the catch basins, so as to dispose of the water. This would put the permanent water line below the street level far enough to secure a hard road bed. Then put on crushed stone as is necessary. That will make a hard street; we know of no other way.

THE NEWS announced as the subject of Pastor Johnson's discourse last Sunday morning in the Presbyterian Church: "Does the Church Need Broadening?" That depends on what was meant by "broadening." Generally speaking it has been felt that the churches are broad enough; they surely have sufficient area to hold people of all sorts of beliefs, from the most liberal to the most Puritanic. If the genial pastor meant "broadening" perpendicularly, up and down; up to a higher faith in and love to God and Christ, to higher ideals of self-sacrifice and service to God an man, and down to a deeper spiritual life and humility, —all right; that kind of broadening will do the church vast good. If it means broadening from east to west, horizontally, we should say, in the words of the immortal Cicero, "Make haste slowly." The churches have already too many people who have religion enough, but are destitute of piety. They attend church, bow their heads in prayer, contribute for church and missionary purposes, but they are destitute of piety or Godliness. Ian Maclaren, in his Yale lectures calls attention to this peril of the modern church, that between the upper and lower millstones of a raging sensationalism and ecclesiastical worldliness, the church sinks into a mere theological club, or society for social reform. Paul Bourget, the French critic, says our American churches are already only "prayer clubs." That is severe, but there may be some truth in it.

THAT \$500 fund back of a Fort Sheridan official, who boldly tells the Marshal our celebrated Bicycle Ordinance is "N. G.," is the League of American Wheelmen, hundreds