

The Highland Park News.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1897.

WHAT emphasis such a spell of weather as the last few days puts on the Psalmist's question: "Who can stand before his cold?"

THIS awful, stinging cold weather has been a great mystery. Some people have even feared the world was "wobbling" on its axis. But it is all clear now:—The female suffragists are in annual session in Des Moines.

THAT WAS a thoughtful, tender and true thing for our local Bible society to do at its annual meeting Sunday evening, put on record a resolution embodying its appreciation of the Christian character, service and eminent worth of its late president, S. R. Bingham, who has passed away since the last annual meeting. Some men would be forgotten in less time than that, but his memory is perennially fresh.

THIS unprecedented "spell of weather" emphasized a remark made to us a while ago by a west side working young man, "I guess some fellers who fooled away their money on beer and theatres and such, last summer, will think on it some this winter when they hain't got nothin' to eat and nowhere to go to." How many men in Chicago are hungry now, because their wages went for beer and whisky last summer, and how many families there are who are in want of coal or flour because they squandered money a few months ago. The time to lay in

your winter's coal is when you are earning money, not fool it away on beer or fashionable society. It is nice to go to the club, if you wish to do so, but when it comes to club or coal, sensible people take coal.

RECTOR P. C. WOLCOTT has issued a good thick pamphlet on "Christian Science." It is an elaborated paper he read before the clergy of Chicago. We have not read it. Christian science reminds us of E. A. Freeman, the historian's estimate of the Roman Empire; "it was not holy, it was not Roman, it was not an empire; or like that gun of which the good old lady was so much afraid, it had no lock, no barrel and no stock! The number of people who like to believe a delusion is exceedingly large.

WEST SIDE SEWER.

All portions of our city are now provided with sewers, except the extreme southern section, which has very few inhabitants, and the west half of the west side, which is becoming densely populated. There are several questions respecting this proposed west side sewer.

First—Is a sewer needed? From the city building west down Central avenue the only sewerage possible is to put everything out on the surface, not a little of which will run off down the hill to the great injury of Evans' subdivision. Formerly all this sewage was detrimental to health of every family, because all used open surface wells. Now, that danger is gone, because the lake water is in. But the offensive, poisonous odors of that surface sewage are all left there, every year growing worse as the population increases. That street most certainly needs a sewer at once. The streets south of that, including the west side of the old Green Bay road, are not as densely populated, but they all need sewers very soon, if not now. Probably the city would not think of building one immediately just for those streets. Evans' Addition ought to have one, though the residents there can get along a year or two, till a boom sets new buildings going up with increas-

ed population. The brick bottom in many places needs a sewer, but there they can get along a little longer. Hence the imperative demand comes chiefly from Central avenue.

Second—Is this a favorable time to build a sewer? Yes, for two reasons; it will give employment to a good many men who need the work, for work is fearfully dull and most as scarce as money. Of course many of these same men who would do the work would have their special assessments to meet to pay for the sewer. But there are two more things right here, these working men won't bear all the cost of that sewer, but they will get about all the money paid out for its construction. Their, second, they get their pay for all their work this year, while they will have five, seven or ten years to pay their assessments. True, all the cost of the sewer will not come back to the workingmen this season; the cost of material, tile and brick and cement they won't get. But after all, the workingmen on the sewer will get back much more in wages than their special assessments will be this year. Another reason for building this year is the low price of material, to say nothing about labor. The people who will have the special assessments to pay can save money by having the sewer built at once; any one can see that.

Third—Is it best to build now? For price of labor and material, yes. But the rub comes with those who will have the bills to pay. Are there any in that sewer district whom this extra special assessment would unduly burden. Are there any whose homes would be put in peril by being obliged now to meet these special assessments? That is, would it put their homes in peril if built now, but they could carry it and get along without sacrificing their homes if the sewer was postponed one or two years. If so, then, the sewer could be put off a year or two, for it is better that a few should suffer an inconvenience a little longer, than that a few should lose their homes. All these improvements come hard on some folks, but the hardships should be made just as small as pos-

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