The Highland Park News.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1897.

THE CAUCUS Saturday evening is a "Citizen's Caucus" and all good citizens, who believe in doing their duty, will be there.

WE SAY NOTHING of city politics this week; let us attend to town matters like men, and then next week the NEWS will try to voice the public wishes and plans concerning the city. We have no cut-and-dried programme, or "slate," but shall voice the best public sentiment of the city without regard to party politics or religious preference.

FELLOW CITIZENS, don't say you are opposed to the caucus. So are we and most other people, but it is here and it will nominate this year's candidates. Now, if you want good men, it is your clear and bounden duty to be there and do your full duty, and then try to get something bett r than the caucus ready for next year. But this year's duty is clear and on us, and we can't evade it without a clear shirk, and that is something real men do not do.

SAID A GENTLEMAN to us, Wednesday morning in speaking of the overwhelming sorrow of the Norton family, "I feel for them; I have a boy of my own." What father or mother in this city has looked upon his own living children these days and not thanked God that theirs were spared? The stricken ones have not murmured, but in the midst of their crushing grief have said "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight," and there comes back to them, from the unseen world, the comforting assurances, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

THERE is a very able, exhaustive and, of course, brilliant article on the "Christian Law of Divorce" in this week's issue of the Waukegan Gazette. It was written by the chief justice of the police court of this city, and is characterised by his well-known logical acumen, historic lore, exegetical erudition, and cogency of expression, and we commend its perusal to all interested in this vital question, and especially to those misguided zealots who undertook to instruct this community a few weeks ago.

ADAMS AND M'KINLEY.

1797-1897.

As we suggested last week, there are some marked contrasts between the inauguration of John Adams, a century ago, and that of William McKinley last week. Adams was inducted into office in Philadelphia, which then boasted of being the finest city in America; she had the best streets, the finest houses, the most wealthy and ambitious citizens and the most cultivated society. Philadelphia had not suffered from the British as had Boston and New York, which were on the sea-coast. The city of Washington was unknown, save as a dismal marsh; with no more prospect or promise of becoming a great city than Boilvin's addition has of rivalling the Park.

In size and population the contrast is very marked. Then there were about fifteen states; now there are over three times that number. Then the country extended west to western Ohio, over into Tennessee and Kentucky, and that was as far as most people ever thought it would go. The Spanish held Florida and with the French controlled the Mississippi river and all its immense valley. The population of the fifteen states, according to the 1790 census, was only 3,884,523, less than that of Illinois in 1890, and Illinois then was an undreamed of possibility. Today there are fully seventy millions, very nearly twenty times as many as then. Then the centre of population was northeast of Philadelphia, and men believed when it moved again it would be towards New York and Boston. Now it is far west of Cincinnati, a city which then consisted of a lot of log huts and a small population. Chicago and its suburbs were practically undreamed of, for Little Fort, Waukegan, and Port Clinton had more promise at the first than Chicago. It was not till fifteen years after Adams' inauguration that the Fort Dearborn massacre took place and Chicago came into notice.

Means of locomotion were extremely simple and rude in Adams' day. From Boston to Washington then, the distance was as great as it is now, but the only means of travel were very rude coaches, not any better or more comfortable than a modern prairie schooner, or a private carriage, a thoroughbrace chaise or gig, perhaps. From Boston to New York was a journey of six days —now of six hours, or less, New York to Philadelphia three more days, and from Philadelphia to Washington, after it was established as the national capital, two and one-half days; in all, from Boston to Washington, Adams would have spent eleven and one-half days on the road. McKinley was one night and part of an afternoon in a palace car, with every comfort of home at his elbow. Adams and his friends rode about forty miles a day and then stopped at a hotel over night and started in the morning at 4 o'clock, often having to stop and lift the stage out of the mud. To Europe the journey was one of from ten to eighteen weeks, occasionally a little less.

Then the country was blessed with about fifty newspapers, all told; papers about the size of the NEWS. The New York "Sun," established in 1833, was of exactly the same size, and news was scarce. The mails were carried in saddle bags on horse back, one bag being sufficient for the whole mail. Large villages often received large mails of five or six letters once or twice a week, and