

**The Highland Park News.**

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

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1897.

A MEMBER of the United States Senate is dead. Judging from the recent conduct of that body, its usefulness would be somewhat increased if several more were to follow their late associate to that bourne, etc.

WE had hoped the hardest of the hard times were passed, but as the new Dingley tariff bill will make women's hats more costlier than ever, of course, failures of business men will be more numerous, and the dawn of prosperity made more remote.

THIS issue closes the first volume of the NEWS. One person has said "Stop my paper," and several hundred others have said "I want the NEWS" and have paid for it, and we are vain enough to flatter ourselves the enterprise is a success. It has paid all its bills and has a few nickels in the till.

WHAT looks like a set-back to the cause of women's rights to higher education, was the vote of Cambridge University, England, 1,713 against to 662 admitting women to degrees. But those 600 votes for the rights of women to degrees the same as young men, is a tremendous victory, and the end and victory is not far off.

A HARVARD college junior advertises for a position during the summer, and among the special qualifications he mentions this: "Absolutely truthful," from which we infer that telling the truth is rare among Har-

vard students. But we are glad to know that the influence of Washington's example has reached even one Harvard undergraduate; even he may save the country from going to the dogs.

**CHURCH SUCCESS.**

From causes which need not be named, several of our local churches are having the annual "round up" about this time, and it seems fitting therefore that a general survey of the situation be made. The one special thing which most imperatively demands attention is the law of success. There is a law of success in business; there are laws of success in any and all the professions; so there is a law, or laws of success in church building. Ostensibly each church exists first and foremost for the glory of God and the spiritual healing of our fellows, and each denomination conceives itself to have some special deposit of the truth of God which is essential to the full and complete setting forth of God's revealed truth, and so each denomination emphasizes its special phase of the truth, in addition to the great fundamental features, on which all evangelical churches are agreed.

Now underlying, or entering into the warp and the weft of every real church organization, there are, or should be, certain clear, definite and steadily pursued Christian aims or purposes. In our day the great and grand thing in church work is preaching the gospel; that has been so from the first. Hence there must be preachers, men called, set apart, of God to that work. The distinguishing thing of the preacher is that he can preach; not that he thinks he can, or some one else thinks he can, but that he can, and does preach. The man that can preach, the people want to hear. The problem of "how to fill the pews," the preacher will settle if he can preach; if he can't, he will empty them. That test is infallible. It must not be forgotten that a preacher may fill the pews in one parish and empty them in another, and if he is a man of much sense and even a little grace, he will get out as soon as he discovers a tendency or disposition on the part

of the congregation to "get out" from under his preaching. People are not to be driven to church "like dumb driven cattle to the shambles;" they are to be won. "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me," and the man that can't draw is out of his place.

Again—the church must have the elements of success within itself, or failure is inevitable. Mere living or existence is not success. Success means growth, enlargement, sending out branches or forces into the world. There is a New England state which has had great influence in the country. It has today within its own borders a population of 335,000, and it has of its own sons and daughters, living in other states fully 200,000. Hence, Senator Proctor was right when he said once: "Vermont raises up men and women and lends them to the rest of the country." Now the church that barely lives, don't and can't do that; it never "swarmed" and never will; as a Christian church it is a poor, miserable failure. And this sad result comes to pass because the elements of success are not in it. The members are not men and women of good, solid sense; of clear, definite views and convictions; they are not successful in business, in their homes and in social life, and hence, they are not successful as church members. You can't get the success of the body or the church, an aggregate of membership, above the high-water mark of the success of its individual members. Somebody has got to have some sense, good, solid, broad common sense, and some "sand," also, to make a business house succeed. Just so a church. Alas, how many so-called churches drift to ruin, just because no level-headed men and women take the helm, the enterprise drifts—and on the rocks it goes ultimately to pieces.

Finally, a church exists for spiritual culture. If intellectual, or social or any other culture be substituted, spirituality declines, the church becomes enervated, and its distinctive power passes away. It may become a strong social centre, but that can't save souls; it may