

The Highland Park News.

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LEWIS B. HIBBARD, EDITOR.

A. E. EVANS, BUSINESS MANAGER.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

Alderman Cushman said the city marshal was an "elegant fellow". Now watch him strut around.

Alderman Cobb wants the executive,—that is the police and the mayor—to enforce the ordinances. He forgets that the authority is taken from the hands of the mayor and put in the hands of the committees. If the authority was lodged where it properly belongs, in the mayor, these ordinances would be enforced. A divided authority is a weakened one always.

The discussion on shutting off water for those who do not pay their water bills, seemed to overlook the fact that the city would make itself liable for damages if it cuts off the water from the present tenant who pays his bills promptly, because some tenant before him did not pay his bills. The present tenant has his rights and you can't punish him for some misdemeanor of former tenants. Go slow, gentlemen, in this matter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The gathering of the Lake county workers last week in Waukegan was one of unusual interest. It was very largely attended for one thing: it was preceded by the Wednesday prayer meeting all over the county being devoted to special prayer for the convention. Hence, from start to finish there was a spirit of reverence and devotion; of hearty fellowship and

of loyalty to duty, not always found in similar gatherings.

Then the program, unusually full, had been constructed with reference to positive results. It was not an incoherent mass of essays, speeches and songs, but one arranged along clearly defined lines, and with respect to definite ends. Each paper and address not only had a general bearing on the great thought of the convention, but grew out of and dovetailed into, what preceded and what followed it. In other words the convention was a living unit, throbbing with life.

The several parts were brief, and yet long enough to make their impression, and so no one got weary: there were none asleep or yawning in the congregation. There was a tension of attention all the time, not too great, but all were on the alert. The only lack was more singing. The hospitality of Waukegan was sensible, practical and unstinted. It was Christian hospitality, not an exhibit of fine or fancy cooking. It was hearty, warm, not cold, stiff and formal.

Some of our good workers in the Park wanted to invite the convention here next year; it should be done; it would do us good to exert ourselves to the extent of handsomely entertaining them. It has not been done since we lived in these parts: Waukegan has done it twice in eight years. Let us do it by all means, and act at once.

OUR CHURCHES.

We started a few weeks ago to write three articles concerning the spiritual condition of our churches: this is the last one. We have spoken plainly but not severely of our low estate and indicated the remedy—a powerful revival of religion, not a series of big meetings by a professional evangelist; we want no evangelist in any shape. Our need is of a revival which shall begin in these churches themselves; a stirring up of the dry bones; till Christian church members are confessing their sins first to God and then to the world. The most of us are so self-complacent, so satisfied with ourselves, that it does not occur to us that we ought to be on our knees confessing our

sins, till such confession would be a relief, instead of an unwelcome duty. This may seem strange, but it is the truth, all the same. There is not piety enough in us to secure a revival: that is, God can't come here, as we are, in the mighty power of his saving grace and save sinners, any more than Christ could work great miracles in unbelieving Nazareth.

The sad fact is, there are so many, so called, Christians who are not yet saved. They are members of our churches, but they are not saved. They are deceived themselves, and are to some extent deceiving others. They add to the numbers of our church members, but not a particle to the saving power of these churches. Indeed, they are a dead weight, a drag on them. They are not being saved themselves and they stand in the way of the salvation of others. No one can have witnessed the so-called growth of these churches during the last dozen years without intense pain at the process. Then among those who are Christians, there is a surfeit of religiousness, with a sad dearth of living piety which has power with God and man, the kind of piety that distinguished Abraham and Jacob after the historic night on Peniel. The fact is, we are so absorbed in and with our social functions, that there is no vitality left for Christian life and service, so that our churches themselves are practically becoming clubs, in spirit, tone and method, though conducted under the guise and garb of religion. We have the form of goodly lives and living but not the power; there is little or no power in us—witness the fruits of the last ten years.

Now what is the remedy? A powerful old fashioned revival like those of the days of Edwards and Whitefield and Finney and Knapp and others like them. But how can this be secured? By means of the plain, faithful, fearless but tender preaching of the gospel. There are in these two pastorless churches just about enough good earnest praying spirits to form the nucleus of a live, aggressive, working Christian force and as Dr. Anderson is here in the providence of God, and can be here most of the season, so he expects, and as