

Streets and Roads.

As the spring approaches it is both natural and fit that our thoughts should turn to the subject matter of improving streets and roads. The matter of good roads, as well as streets, is a question of vastly greater financial importance than is usually supposed. In this country we are just beginning to realize the fact. It is not a little surprising how superficially many thoughtful and intelligent men will reason about matters in general. They see something done successfully on one place and under certain circumstances, and they jump at the conclusion that the same thing will be equally successful in all other places and under all other circumstances. We have noticed a very strong tendency in Highland Park to advocate against block pavement, nor have we ever felt that we were positively right in believing that such pavements were better for us than macadam. A man will see a block pavement in Chicago in a worn out, rotten condition, a pavement which perhaps has not been in existence more than six or eight, or ten years, and he at once reaches the conclusion that a block pavement in all other places will be just as short lived. He forgets that the nature of the soil, the hard work required of the improvement, and the climate, to say nothing of other lesser factors, may very greatly change the relative value of different kinds of street and road-improvements.

We have at the present time three kinds of improvement in Highland Park—macadam, block and brick. Unquestionably, for durability the brick pavement is the most substantial and long lived. Why the strong prejudice has existed against block we have never been able to see, except for the reason stated above. The oldest macadam in the city, that on Laurel and Prospect avenues, has been down only eight years, and yet it is practically ruined, being very little better than many other streets which have not been improved at all. The block pavement on Central avenue, if we mistake not, has been down nearly four years. With the exception of one place, which needed

repairing by reason of imperfectly filling a ditch under the pavement, it has not, to the best of our knowledge, needed any expense in the four years for keeping in order. It is apparently as good as new, and will undoubtedly last at least eight years longer with little or no expense to keep it up. When the blocks are ultimately worn out or decayed, and need relaying, whether the plank foundation will be found in sufficiently good condition to support another surface of blocks is a question. But at all events there will be no necessity to go to the expense of excavating and refilling with a sand foundation. If it needs anything more than the block surfacing it will need nothing but the replacing of the plank underneath. The same will also hold true of brick. If we are not mistaken the block is the cheapest form of the three; certainly much cheaper than brick; much pleasanter, in our opinion, to ride over than the brick, and much less noisy, and, therefore, much to be preferred in front of residence property. This might not be a question of serious importance in front of business property. If the streets of Highland Park were to be used constantly almost twenty-four hours a day for heavy trafficking, as in Chicago, then the suggestions made above might not have their full force. In other words, that which is best or poorest for Chicago may be far from best or poorest in Highland Park.

We simply throw out these hints as suggestions, and would be glad to hear from any of our readers in a matter of so vital importance as the improvement of our streets. Again, however, reiterating what we have said in a former article—that anything that diminishes the first cost to the property owners or to the city of paving our streets will be a very great incentive to a more general willingness to improve them at an early day.

For Sale—A Wagonette or Carryall; practically new; never run a hundred miles, and cost \$450; also a back harness, nickel plated. Will sell very cheap. R. R. Men's Home.

HEARTACHE.

BY NELLIE S. CHARTER.

There's an ache in thy heart, may be
An ache so hard to bear;
Grieve not, thy heart shall yet be glad,
God hears and answers prayers.

And thou hast called upon His love
To help thee do His will;
He knows thy heart, will heal its hurt,
And shield thee from all ill.

How may'st thou know thy Father's will,
And His commands obey?
By child-like trust and simple love,
Living in Thee always.

For He reveals His will to all
Who watch, and work, and pray;
In silence, then, expectant wait
To hear His word each day.

And when His message is thine own,
O, be thou swift to go
To share with some lone, cheerless life,
The comfort thou dost know.

Thus shall thy soul find happiness
In service glad and true;
Loving as God, thy Father, loves,
And working with Him, too.

Boston, Mass. Jan. 31, 1900.

A Surprise Party.

Remembering that Mrs. Hibbard's birthday came "about this time," as the old-time almanacs used to say, her associates in the Baptist Sunday-school, to the number of some five and twenty, or more, planned a surprise for her Tuesday evening. They told Miss Bottum, who is boarding there, their plans, and she kept the family at home reading some interesting book till just past 8 o'clock, when the door-bell rang and the company entered, with sundry baskets, boxes, etc., of dishes and refreshments, including a generous supply of that superb McLaughlin's coffee from Mrs. Bock's and a pail of cream from Dan Sheahen's dairy, and cake ad infinitum. It was a very delightful evening, so pronounced by the "victim" herself, as well as by all the company. The refreshments were served about 10 o'clock, and in the strength of that superb coffee we wrote brilliant paragraphs till 1:30 a.m.

Services at the Baptist church take place next Lord's Day at 10:45 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Mr. Robert Morris Rabb preaches at both hours. In the evening the subject will be, "Some Events in the Life of Christ." Stereopticon views will be used to illustrate the discourse. You will be made welcome.