No. 28. Social Life and Customs of Kalamazoo from 1846 to 1860

by Eloise Quick
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In 1846 Kalamazoo was a thriving community. As it approached its 25th anniversary, the town could boast of a population of 4,000, the largest town in the county. The railroad began to run on regular schedules. The volunteer firemen organized and pushed the erection of Firemen's Hall. The town acquired a town clock and bell. New hotels were constructed. Churches counted many converts among their members. In 1857 Kalamazoo was a gas-lighted city with the “effect, especially on Main Street, ... gorgeous and almost enchanting.” The editor of the Gazette stated that he did not believe that there was a place in the state where more care was taken “in laying out gardens, and planting shrubbery about dwellings, than in Kalamazoo.” Kalamazoo was on its way toward becoming the “center of Southwestern Michigan.”

The life of the village went on much as before. Until July 13, 1849, Kalamazoo residents turned their domestic animals, including horses and mules, loose in the village parks for grazing. On that date, the village marshall called a halt. Owners were to keep their animals tied in the yards, or be assessed $2.00 for the use of the village green. In addition, an ordinance was passed creating a city pound, with the following provision:

1. “all cows, horses, goats, sheep, and fowls found wandering in the streets should be taken in charge by policemen or citizens and brought to the public pound.”

2. “that any citizen doing his duty in this regard would receive a fee of 20 cents for bringing in horses, 15 cents a

1 Scrapbook, “Social Life and Customs.”
2 Thomas’s Kalamazoo Directory for 1867 and 1868, Page 34.
3 Kalamazoo Gazette, July 3, 1857.
4 Ibid., May 23, 1851.
5 Scrapbook, “Social Life and Customs.”
6 Ibid.
head for cows, 10 cents each for sheep and goats, and five cents for chickens and other poultry."

3. all cows "would be milked by the pound master and the milk would be sold to pay for the food consumed by the bovine."

June 1, 1860, was "Black Friday" for animals. On that day the dog killer was to commence his work and the marshall issued a decree against tying teams to wagons for the purpose of feeding in Main, Burdick, Portage, and Hose street."

In addition to coping with the animal problem, Kalamazoo needed some rules for its increasing population. The town was so popular in 1855 that a "sidewalk etiquette" was suggested by the editor of the Gazette. It was the custom for the man when walking with a lady to take the side near the street. When a gentleman alone met a lady alone or accompanied by a gentleman coming from the opposite direction, the former passed to the right. But what was one to do when both gentlemen had ladies?

"... a gentleman alone would cheerfully give the inside of the walk to a lady alone, or accompanied; but if he has a lady and insists upon his right, there is a collision of a yielding of right."

"Will it not be an advance on our present practice for all to adopt the rule for sidewalk travel that obtains in the streets for teams passing — 'Keep to the right as the law directs.'"

It was customary for whole families to go places together. The old and young mingled freely at social events. If a family was to entertain an out of town guest, a member of the family started out in the carriage and invited the neighbors and friends to a party in honor of the visitor. All calls were formal. If the carriage occupant didn't care to get out, the driver left a card.

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1 Scrapbook, "Societal Life and Customs."
2 Kalamazoo Gazette, September 7, 1855.
3 Scrapbook, "Pioneer History." Reminiscences of Mrs. John deW.Mayker (see Balch).
Besides mingling freely with the older people and young men, the young ladies must have been allowed late hours, for the advertisement announcing the Tenth Annual Ball of the Bar [sic] Oak Engine Company, No. 1, for January 8, 1856, stated that carriages would be in attendance from 7 P.M. until 6 A.M.¹

The young men, however, must have been getting out of hand, for Rev. N. Taylor was to preach to the "Boys of the Village" on Sunday, June 13, 1855. The Gazette commented that recent revelations in regard to the practices and habits of some of the boys in the village rendered it highly important that the class should be present to hear the discourse.²

Many young people probably met each other at the city drug store. An advertisement of one said that "a public meeting will be held every day during the Soda Water Season at Booth's City Drug Store, where Ladies and Gentlemen get the best Soda Water from an elegant new Fountain, 11co sold.¹ Easton thirty cases and drink."³

The practice of sending wedding cake to the printer of the Gazette was still prevalent, for with the announcement of the marriage of Mr. John R. Bushnell to Miss Minerva L. Clapp on September 26, 1850, was the following:⁴

With the above we received a loaf of cake about the size of a full moon, with the words "KALAMAZOO GAZETTE" frosted very neatly on the top. May the share of happiness experienced by this young couple in life's journey be foreshadowed by the magnitude of the present bestowed on the printer.

The opening of the first billiard parlor in Kalamazoo in February or March, 1855, caused considerable agitation among the villagers.⁵ Rollin Hubbard was the proprietor of the "billiard saloon" over the L. D. Strong store. The penalty for violating the law by opening such a place was not more than a year in jail and a fine of $100.⁶

¹Kalamazoo Gazette, June 26, 1857.
²Ibid., June 11, 1855.
³Ibid., June 26, 1857.
⁴Ibid., June 26, 1857.
⁵Social Life in Kalamazoo to 1846, Patricia Treat.
⁶Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
⁷Ibid.
In addition to frowning upon the billiard parlor and various hobbies during the 1850's, certain individuals also condemned some contemporary writings. The first censorship of literature in Kalamazoo was attempted in 1855.  

The Gazette opposed the seige by saying:

There is an evil present in society of an alarming magnitude. We refer to the light, trashy, unhealthy, publications in the shape of autobiographies, fictions, scandals personal experiences at etern which are flooding the country and are being read all over the land with greedy avidity.

Some of the works referred to included 

- Emma's Life, The Lamplighter,
- Fashion and Famine,
- and Wyckoff's Courtship and Its Consequences.

The women of Kalamazoo were conscious of the changes in their style of dress. The bloomer girls were championed by a contributor to the Gazette in July, 1851.

The 'bloomer' costume has made its appearance in our streets. It is decidedly neat and graceful, allowing the wearer great privileges of free and unobstructed locomotion. The person who can see anything amiss in this beautiful and improved style of dress possesses an imagination that needs restraint.

The hoop skirt also made its appearance in 1856, and the editor of the Gazette questioned whether the ladies would continue to wear hoops in winter or "sensibly resort to an abundance of skirts." In reply to this comment a subscriber to the Gazette, "C. P.," perhaps Rev. C.S. Hoyt, vigorously defended the hoop skirts and stated that many medical works of good standing had put down a long list of ailments attributable to the practice of wearing many skirts. "C. P." added that an abundance of skirts caused many evils.

And, too, when wise men are dragging out the miserable existence of a bachelor's life, rather than be burdened with a sickly wife and diseased offspring, to such an extent, have the foolish fashions of women undermined their constitution.

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1 Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
2 Kalamazoo Gazette. February 9, 1855.
3 This. July 11, 1851.
4 Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
5 Gazette. October 24, 1856.
The contributor also argued that the hoop skirt was more modest, for many a lady had been criticized by her brother or husband for the scanty supply of skirts in summer heat.

Between 1846 and 1860 the town made some noteworthy additions. On November 23, 1849, a meeting was to be held at the Court House to consider the erection of a building on the church square for a town bell and clock, and the means for accomplishing the project. The town hall arrived in 1855 and was hung in the Baptist Church. The tone is exceedingly rich and clear and can be distinctly heard in any state of the weather, far beyond the limits of the Corporation. With the fire alarm, the bell cost $200.

In April, 1852, the Gazette announced that the excavation and timber for the framework of the Firemen's Hall was nearly completed. The principal architect, A. C. Hopkins, planned a brick building, forty feet by eighty, in the Tuscan Gothic style. The upper story was to house a hall, capable of seating at least 2,000 persons, for public meetings, lectures, concerts, etc., while the lower story would have spacious offices for renting. The Hall was completed in February, 1853, at a cost of $7000.

Dedicated on April 13, 1853, the Hall was actually christened by Halinard's Celebrated Opera Troupe which appeared there April 1 and 2. The Gazette stated:

Kalamazoo can now boast of as nice a building and as commodious and elegant a room for lectures, concerts, exhibitions, parties, etc., as can be found in the state.

The proceeds of the dedication ball, $2.50 per ticket, were to be used to liquidate the labor debts on the Hall.
In 1855 the stage was carpeted, matting was placed on the back ante
chamber, "to obviate the noise in ascending to the main floor," and a "first
class" piano was added. 1 Now "it will be a real comfort to pass an evening
in the hitherto almost comfortless place." 2

The Firemen's Hall, however, was far from perfect. The Gazette expressed
the opinion that 3

As at present situated, the Firemen's Hall is incapable of
but little ventilation, and this only at great inconvenience, and in a manner dangerous to health, as the lower each rises
as the upper descends, letting a current of cold air directly
on to the persons of those near the windows, causing great
discomfort, if not serious colds and coughs. . . . It were better,
as Horace Greeley suggested, when he was here, to fire a common
hall through the roof, than to cause death by slow suffocation
in consequence of the present untoward arrangements.

Kalamazoo was noted not only for its Firemen's Hall but also for its
hotels or public houses.

If there is any truth in the old saying that the reputation
of a place may be determined by its Public Houses, then this
lovely city of the Barr Gates is in no danger of being registered
on the Black List. 4

In 1851 there were four houses on Main street — the Kalamazoo House, the
Exchange, the River House, and the Central Railway House. 5 Until the erection
of Firemen's Hall the Exchange housed a number of lectures and concerts, as
did the Kalamazoo House, also. "But at length its [the Exchange's] reputation
for some cause declined, its patronage of the better class departed, and its
once jovial landlord left it by no means a wealthy men." 6 After standing for
nearly a quarter of a century, the Kalamazoo River House was destroyed by an
incendiary fire October 8, 1859. 7

In August, 1850, the erection of the Burdick House was begun by Francis

1 Kalamazoo Gazette. November 23, 1855.
2 Ibid. October 28, 1859.
3 Ibid. August 15, 1861.
4 Ibid. August 15, 1861.
6 Ibid. Page 255.
Demison and was completed in the spring of 1853 at a cost of $10,000 or $12,000.¹

The brick building, about 100 by 70 feet in dimensions and four stories in height, was "one of the largest and best constructed hotels at that time in Western Michigan."² A fire during the last week of September, 1855, seriously threatened the Burdick House, but although it was spared the flames, much damage did occur. The amount of water thrown in caused considerable injury to the new furniture. "The loss to Messrs. Askew & Lacey, who were to open the Burdick House on...[October 1], was very great as they had furnished the house completely and at great expense, with entirely new furniture."³

The year 1846 brought war to the nation, and on May 15, the first news of the Mexican War reached Kalamazoo.⁴ For approximately two years the departure of militia calmed the streets. Col. F. W. Curtinius, who had served under Bolivar in the South American wars, opened a Rendezvous in October, 1847, for enrolling volunteers for the War in Mexico,⁵ and was commissioned as Captain of the "Kalamazoo Guards."⁶

To the Kalamazoo Guards⁷

To have spring to arms at your country's call,
As the trumpet's thrilling clang
Through the quiet field and the peaceful hall,
With its stormy music rang.

She calls for the fearless heart and hand
To fight her battles now —
She've laid down the book for the warrior's brand,
Ta'em the steel for the farmer's plough.

And brave and true are the hearts ye bear,
As ye answer her summons now —
And the shouts that ring through our peaceful air,
Are the patriot-soldier's vow —

¹Bartet, ibid., Page 256.  
²Bartet, ibid., Page 255.  
³Kalame = member of the South American wars, 1847, opened a Rendezvous in October, 1847.  
⁴Bartet, ibid., Page 257.  
⁵Bartet, ibid., Page 255.  
⁶Bartet, ibid., Page 257.  
⁷Bartet, ibid., Page 255.
To carry his country's banner still,
As ever it hath been borne,
Since, o'er old Bunker's glorious hill,
Arose her natal morn.

Then, on to the battlefield brave hearted!
To join your brethren there —
Not one from his native land departs
To breathe that stormy air —

But hearth a spell more potent far,
To keep him true and brave,
And the din and strife of that furious war,
Than wizard of old o'er he gave.

The thoughts of the loved ones left behind,
Shall be that powerful charm
Which each in the depths of his heart shall find,
To strengthen each soldier's arm.

The reports in the papers of the Mexican War and crises in other parts of
the world made the citizens conscious not only of the needs of foreign groups
but also of the people in areas near Kalamazoo. A number of charitable
movements sprang up.

In 1847 a group of the citizens met for the purpose of dividing means of
aiding in the relief of the starving population of Ireland. 1 The meeting
to be held on May 7 was to hear a report of the Relief Committee and to add,
if possible, to the amount already raised for the relief of the starving
nation. 2

On June 2, 1857, a relief meeting to aid the sufferers in Michigan's
northern counties was called. 3 A committee of twelve was appointed to canvass
the town for contributions. The committee reported in June that $450 worth
of provisions had been collected. 4

Through the efforts of H. C. Klyn, Jr., the son of the minister of the
Dutch Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, and C. Peyster, funds were raised to aid

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 5, 1847.
2 Ibid., May 7, 1847.
3 Ibid., June 5, 1857.
4 Ibid., June 19, 1857.
10 families who lost their homes and all belongings in the fire that swept the Holland Colony of Zeeland, March 30, 1860.

One of the most important charities, however, was the invitation to the Hollanders to settle in the southwestern section of Michigan. At a meeting January 22, 1847, at the Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of discussing the expected emigration from Holland to this area, Rev. Mr. Hoyt, Kalamasoo, Rev. Mr. Taylor, Grand Rapids, and T. Homeyn, Detroit, submitted resolutions extending sympathy and as invitation to the Hollanders already in this country.

In welcoming the Hollanders, the resolutions mentioned their ancestors:

In their industry, their enterprise, their frugality, their integrity, their love of country, their devotedness to faith and to freedom in civil institutions, we recognize these qualities which entitle their descendants to our respect and welcome.

It was only an accident, however, that a group of these people decided to remain in Kalamasoo. As they were passing through to join Dutch colonies northwest of Kalamasoo, they rested at the Tremont Hotel, since some of the children were ill. When six guests at the Exchange Hotel died from some mysterious illness, the foreigners were accused by medical men and quarantined. Later poison, confused for a table relish of same, was found to have been the cause of the deaths. While here, however, Paulus Den Meyker spent the time surveying the town and countryside. He liked Kalamasoo and decided to settle his colony here.

While Kalamasoo attracted the Hollanders, the town could not compete with the lure of gold for some individuals. The "California Fever" broke out a number of times and many citizens left Kalamasoo for the land of the legendary riches.

1 Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
2 Kalamasoo Gazette, January 29, 1847.
3 Scrapbook, "Pioneer History."
4 Gazette, February 10, 1854.
HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Christmas and New Year's holiday season was a time of great celebration. The more austere tasks of the day were forgotten and elaborate preparations were made. The women and young girls devoted themselves to the baking of pumpkin pies, doughnuts, loaves of bread, and cakes, while chickens were prepared for the feast. Turkeys were wild and secured by the "unerring rifle," for tame turkeys were rarely seen. Sometimes roast pig was substituted for chicken pie. Several families usually celebrated Christmas under one roof, all contributing to the feast.1

Gift giving was reserved for the immediate family and very close friends,2 but the children firmly believed in Santa Claus and hung their stockings by the hearth.

This festive season was a time of increased visiting among friends, at which time the best and newest clothes were worn. Young people visited their friends Christmas night. Every village had its fiddler, and when he was present, the young people often danced through the night. Sometimes it was necessary to take turns dancing because of the crowded floor, and those waiting played checkers, the game of "fox and goose," and Button, button, who's got the button?3 Sleighbirds were also planned.

Christmas weddings were very prevalent. The whole neighborhood was invited to the ceremony, after which a magnificent feast was served. The new bride, however, received no costly gifts, usually a "feather bed, new sheets and a few comfortable."4

1Sampson, "Social Life and Customs."
2Ibid., "Pioneer History," Reminiscences of Mrs. John van Blarcom.
3Ibid., "Social Life and Customs."
4Ibid.
For New Year's, certain ladies of the village sent out cards stating they were having open house. The villagers made a practice of calling at several places and participating in the receptions and refreshments. A letter, signed "Martha," was written to the Gazette during the holiday season of 1859-1860 commenting that there was "a worn in the bud" in this custom.

I speak for all the ladies when I say that these [calls] might be made much more agreeable to them if the gentlemen would be more on their guard in using stimulants which are placed before them. It is very necessary when making so many calls and sipping at every house, that they should be exceedingly cautious. I would recommend to the ladies to have coffee and tea on their tables, for I know that many gentlemen would take these drinks in preference if they were set before them.

The Fourth of July was another time of great celebration. This day was always one of bands, parades, gun salutes, fire crackers, speeches, music, lemonade, ice cream, and noise. The parades often included the firemen, the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Sons of Temperance. 1846 marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the townspeople were well aware of the fact. After the ceremonies a "collation" was served in the grove. Various toasts were made at the dinners following the festivities. In 1848, one was made to the "Fourth of July, 1800 — may it then be celebrated, and for all time to come, as it is this day, — a National Jubilee." The 75th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was celebrated in 1851 with a 31 gun salute fired morning, noon, and evening, but "the chief attraction was at the dissection of the excellent dinner which brought out an elaborate program of speeches and toasts."

The city firemen presented a mass demonstration and tournament, the first such tournament in the State, declared Thomas, in July, 1857. Several

1Ibid., "Pioneer History," Reminiscences of Mrs. den Meyker.
2Elamassuck Gazette, December 30, 1859.
3Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
4Gazette, July 14, 1848.
5Ibid., June 20, 1851.
6Ibid., July 11, 1851.
7Thomas, Cal. St. Page 42.
companies from Detroit were entertained. Mr. H. E. Wells, "an elegant and
talented Fireman of Detroit," delivered the oration. Firemen's Hall was
magnificently decorated for the occasion:

At the west end of the Hall a large arch was put up
feastooned with flowers and evergreens, on which was the
word 'Welcome' in raised evergreen letters on white
ground. — The American Flag, filled up the center of the
arch, and over all floated a balloon.

The decorations of the engines in the parade were marvelous, too, particularly
those engines of Excelsior, No. 2, for it was completely buried in flowers.

On the front was a spread eagle measuring five feet from
tip to tip, composed of over six bushels of roses, of over
100 different varieties, in its beak was suspended a large
wreath of roses.

At three o'clock the engines participated in distance trials of throwing water
through the hoses and quantity trials, testing the amount of water coming
through. The entire celebration was a magnificent affair. The firemen "pride"
themselves on doing whatever they undertake, a little better than anybody else. 3

The Quartent Centennial Celebration of the founding of Kalamasoo was
presented June 21, 1857, under the auspices of the Ladies' Library Association. 5
The address delivered by Col. Cartenius at the program in the Court House was
replete with information and sound scholarship, and was listened to by the
assembly with the closest attention.... [He] alluded in feeling terms to the
founder of the village, Titus Bronson. 6  E. L. Brown of Schoolcraft, the poet
of the day, presented "Kala." 7

Kala

........................
The pearls that shine on Kala's youthful brow!
Her brief, bright childhood, drawn on memory's page,
And all her glorious hopes of future age!

1Kalamasoo Gazette, June 26, 1857.
2Ibid., July 17, 1857.
3Ibid., July 17, 1857.
4Ibid., June 12, 1857.
5Ibid., June 16, 1854.
6Ibid., July, 1857, Pages 231 and 232.
7Ibid., Page 151.
The opening of the Atlantic Cable in 1858 created a spontaneous and the
most enthusiastic celebration ever known in Kalamazoo on August 16 and 17.1
An extra issue of the Gazette at the time stated that at the word that the
Queen's message had been received "instantly all the bells in the churches were
set in motion. Large bonfires were kindled on Main Street and the camp lent
its hoarse oratory; impromptu bands of music joined in the concert; the
firemen, with their engines were promptly out as the principal streets were
crowded with a dense mass of people, full of the most intense excitement in
view of the glad tidings."2 Crowds demanded speeches from Senator Charles B.
Stuart at the Burdick House and Major G. S. Atlee at the Kalamazoo House.

A formal systematic celebration was to take place the next evening. A
gun at eight o'clock announced the festivities and in ten minutes Main Street
was ablaze with illumination. "It is no exaggeration to say that Kalamazoo
never saw such a time before."3

On Monday, August 17, 1858, the colored people of Kalamazoo celebrated the
anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the West: Indian Turm.4 At ten
o'clock a parade led by a fifer and drummer marched through the business district
of town. The grand procession, an hour later, was preceded by the Kalamazoo

3 Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs." 
4 Add.
5 Kalamazoo Gazette, August 5, 1859.
Brass Band. They marched to the grounds of the Female Seminary for a dinner
prepared by a Mr. Burton, a colored man. The event was marred by an unfortunate
incident.

The dinner was levied upon by an officer to satisfy a
debt owing by Mr. Burton to one of our citizens. The edibles
were, in consequence, taken possession of by the officer, and
the bright anticipations of the hungry multitude were thus over-
shadowed in an instant.

Was this an indication of the race prejudice which was later to plague the
nation? Fortunately there was no violence. The people marched back to town,
A subscription was sponsored to secure a supper for the outraged people and
the ladies prepared one at Humphrey Hall. The proceeds of the subscriptions
were to go to the benefit of the pastor of the A. M. E. Church. At the banquet
an orator remarked about the "jolly round faces..." Mr. Green of Canada spoke and said that "Michigan had
done more for the colored man than all the other States together. It (Michigan)
had always led the way in raising the hopes of seeing the establishment of
human rights and liberties, and before these were established the great principal
right and justice must guide the makers of our laws." Rev. Mr. Taylor
was called on for some remarks and "a portion of the ladies and gentlemen then
adjourned to the American where the dance was going on..."
RECREATION

The citizens of Kalamazoo kept themselves very busy, for lecturers, concerts, plays, theatrics, and circuses came to the City of the Burr Oaks. Besides the visiting companies, many Kalamazoo people prominent in fields of entertainment participated in the various activities of the period.

There were lectures on every conceivable subject - politics, clairvoyance, religion, physiology and phrenology, diseases, etc. After 1852 the Ladies', and later the Young Men's, Library Association was instrumental in obtaining some of the finest speakers of the day.

It would seem as though Kalamazoo got a fairly early start in the women's suffrage movement, for in February, 1855, Lucy Stone, the distinguished lecturer, gave two addresses on Women's Rights, her second one entitled "Women's Political Rights" as contrasted with their present and past political wrongs. These lectures must have aroused interest, for the Young Men's Literary Association discussed the political rights of women at its meeting in March, 1856.

In February, 1856, Captain Wood through his lecture sought to unite the people with which purchase rifles and artillery for the Kansas difficulties. It was "inviting to further discord upon a subject which has already caused so much trouble between the two sections of our country. — We were glad to see that even our most hot-headed factionists did not respond to the call of the incendiary." Thus commented the Democratic Kalamazoo Gazette.

One of the most outstanding lectures was delivered by Horace Greeley on "Great Men," December 15, 1855. It was "eminently a characteristic production

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 9, 1855.
2 Ibid., February 23, 1855.
3 Ibid., March 2, 1855.
4 Ibid., February 15, 1856.
5 Ibid., December 17, 1855.
of Mr. Greeley's peculiar cast of mind. [said the hostile Gazetta]. It was confined almost wholly to the domain of glittering generalization — calculated to arouse but not to interest....all conspired to exalt and arouse the nobler faculties of the auditors, but furnished few facts, and little of practical utility to fall back on when the glow of excited sentiment should subside, and leave the mind once more in the cold realm of logic, and the realities of actual life;" His goal of reforms were a "good time coming" but "for the planning, practical and successful reformer, another cast of mind and habit will be required."2

Carl Schurz spoke of the "Democracy and Despotism of France," illustrated by the events since the Revolution of 1848. The address was of "very high order both in respect to style and matter."2 The speaker gave evidence not only of ripe scholarship, but of a keen, discerning intellect, through which runs a vein of philosophy peculiar to the habits of the German mind.

The trend toward increased religious activity and interest was indicated by a number of religious addresses presented in Kalamazoo. In March, 1849, Dr. New was to give a talk on the connection of religion and learning, entitled "On Eloquence" as viewed from the sacred and profane.3 During the next month three lectures were given at St. Luke's Church on "Public Worship," "Church Government," and "Holy Baptism."4

Clairvoyance and mesmerism seemed to be quite a fad. In November, 1849, Mr. Alverson of Prairieville, Barry County, conducted a demonstration upon Mrs. Sarah Shields. The patient was thrown into a "magnetic slumber." Her eyes were then covered with cotton batting, and this covered with two handkerchiefs, in order to make absolutely sure she was blindfolded. She read printed words from a newspaper and described eight or ten bank bills. After the experiment—the

1Kalamazoo Gazette. December 17, 1858.
2Ibid. November 25, 1859.
3Ibid. March 9, 1849.
following certificate was drawn up and signed by some of the persons present:

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we were present at a series of experiments given by Mrs. Sarah Shields, Clairvoyant, [and] Dr. Alverson, Operator, conducted by a committee chosen for the purpose to test the facts of Clairvoyance or the power of seeing without the natural organs of vision. We further certify that the experiments were in our opinion, successful, and that the subject read printed words and described bank bills accurately, while in the magnetic state, her eyes being bandaged in a manner that rendered it impossible to see with the natural eyes. November 16, 1849.

This testimonial was signed by Rev. James Selkirk, Geo. W. Winslow, Jas. P. Clapham, Ormand Smith, L. L. Benson, Geo. Farwell, Wn. H. DeYoe, and V. Rashall.

The general public was then to have the chance to see a similar demonstration at the Exchange on November 27 for $125 cates.

Physiology and human anatomy interested the citizens of Kalamasoo. In his lecture on Physiology and Emotion in September, 1846, Prof. Bronson used manikins for the study of the human system. Dr. C. H. Chase intended "to give our citizens a rich banquet of the true delicacies of the great science of Man" in December, 1854.

Hand in hand with the interest in human anatomy was the desire to know the care for diseases prevalent at the time. Dr. Whiton gave a series of lectures, illustrated by Hobbes' Plates, "taken from nature, the size of life," on the causes and cure of consumption and chronic diseases incident to the human system.

An interesting exhibition of the day was the Panorama, a large canvas displayed in sections by unrolling. Ballard's Panorama of New York City, showing a bird's eye view of the entire city, moved before the spectator for nearly two hours and took him over six miles through the streets of New York.

1Kalamasoo Gazette. November 23, 1849.
2Ibid. September 18, 1846.
3Ibid. December 22, 1854.
4Ibid. May 14, 1852.
5Ibid. August 26, 1853.
The perspective appears to be faultless. Everything stands out in bold relief... [one] can scarcely realize... [it is] a painting on a plain surface.

Folger’s Panorama of Washington, covering 6000 square feet of canvas and depicting the life of Washington from his birth to the entrance of the Continental Army into Boston, was exhibited December 6, 1853. The second exhibition of this painting occurred the following January, when Mr. Folger had completed the canvas which now depicted Washington’s life “From the Birth to the Tomb.” He must have been a very rapid painter! Folger’s Panorama of Dr. Kane’s Arctic Voyages was “decidedly the best ever in this place” and remained for a week at Firemen’s Hall. The Louisville, Kentucky, Democrat was quoted as stating:

we have never seen views to compare with the beauty of some of the Arctic scenes — the effect of the Aurora upon the ice mountains, and the refraction of the rays of light upon both sky and water.

Kalamazoo had many of its own musical organizations. The Kalamazoo Glee Club, “a choir so cultivated and skillful in execution,” presented a benefit concert for the Firemen February 22, 1847, netting $27.36. Proceeds of another concert were to be devoted to the purchase of new and popular music “to enable the Club successfully to compete with the best foreign and itinerant performers.” On August 15, 1850, they “completely excelled themselves.” The Club traveled east in February, 1853. In November, 1853, the Club, accompanied by George Davis of Detroit, presented a benefit concert to obtain money for the purchase of a wooden log for Mr. Jas. Gorman of the village. For Hiram Underwood’s benefit concert home talent and artists including the Glee Club and Russell’s Brass Band participated; the admission was 25 cents with no half price.

Kalamazoo Gazette, September 23, 1853.  9Ibid., January 28, 1853.
2Ibid., September 30, 1853.  10Ibid., November 25, 1853.
3Ibid., December 20, 1855.  4Ibid., April 29, 1859.
5Ibid., April 22, 1859.  6Ibid., February 28, 1847.
7Ibid., August 9, 1850.  8Ibid., August 16, 1850.
and no "dead heads!" 1 The receipts for this concert amounted to $120.2

The first concert of the newly formed Music Association, under the tuition of Prof. Charles Hess of Detroit, presented parts of Mr. Hess' Oratorio, Pilgrims of 1620, Saturday, May 10, 1851, with local talent.3

In 1853 a Brass Band was formed.4 This Band was reorganized in 1857 under Mr. Charles F. Hubbard.5 New performers and instruments were added and the members expected "to turn out the best Band in this State." In 1858 efforts again were made to reorganize the Band, under the direction of Prof. J. M. Hubbard.6 The Band often participated in functions at Kalamazoo College. In June, 1859, the procession of the graduating students was escorted by the Band.7

Professor J. M. Hubbard, who was also the local music merchant, announced in 1857 that he had obtained a new musical instrument "not three weeks from Paris" — the Metallic Harmonium, "made and played like a Dulcimer while the music is produced by metal plates, which give a sound much like silver bells."8

The performance September 10, 1856, of the celebrated Cantata, the "Flower Queen,"9 under the direction of G. A. Armstrong, was a brilliant artistic display of the talent of the local young ladies.9

The coronation scene was indeed a beautiful one, and was greeted with resplendent applause for never did Queen appear more graceful, or personate better the blushing, modest rose.

The choirmen of the "Melistrepes and Mignonettes and Heather Halls, by little Misses were sung with remarkable power." This beautiful Cantata by Prof. G. F. Best of the Normal Musical Institute of New York was again presented in July, 1858.10

1Kalamazoo Gazette, November 2, 1855. A "dead head" in one who does not have to pay for something that the general public pays. (Webster's Unabridged Dictionary)
2Ibid., November 16, 1855.
3Ibid., May 16, 1855.
4Ibid., May 27, 1853.
5Ibid., June 5, 1857.
6Ibid., March 25, 1858.
7Ibid., June 24, 1859.
8Ibid., September 25, 1857.
9Ibid., September 12, 1856.
10Ibid., June 18, 1858.
A new musical society, the Mozart Harmonic, was organized by the German citizens of Kalamazoo in the spring of 1858. J. C. Meyer, for a long time connected with the noted Santag's chorus troupe, directed the Society. Their object — "perfection in vocal harmony." A benefit concert and ball was presented in the behalf of Prof. Meyer on August 16, 1858.

Among these musical groups visiting Kalamazoo time and time again were the Continentals. "None name them but to praise." On February 16, 1850, the Peninsular vocalists sang to a "small, but highly intelligent audience, with unbounded applause." Mr. Kellogg reckons his benches will need repairing soon. Another frequent visitor was the "Black Swan" who "either is, or can be, an excellent singer; of this we are convinced. But as for us, we prefer the more simple style of singing and have no sort of appreciation of variations and scientifics...an unpleasant harshness in the higher tones." Still another musical organization was the Peak Family.

The Peak Family, humble imitators of the famous Swiss Bell Singers, propose to astonish our citizens with a performance. It may be worth a quarter — we can't say.

Concerts seemed to bore the populace after a while, however, for the Gazette remarked that "the monotonous routine of concerts with which we have been favored during the Summer, is to be relieved by a series of dramatic entertainments, at the Firemen's Hall." Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor presented Elizabeth on October 10, 1859, as part of their course of readings. Prior to their further renditions the Gazette stated:

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, May 14, 1859.
2 Ibid., August 13, 1859.
3 Ibid., November 23, 1855.
4 Ibid., February 21, 1856.
5 Ibid., April 16, 1852.
6 Ibid., February 3, 1854.
7 Ibid., August 31, 1855.
8 Ibid., October 12, 1849.
Our citizens who wish to drink in the spirit of Shakespeare's genius, should certainly avail themselves of this opportunity.

By far the most popular dramatic reader, however, was Mrs. Macready, for she returned to Kalamasoo three of four times. She excelled as a tragedienne. After her success in September, 1856, she returned again in January, 1857, and the citizens of Kalamasoo were to have a rich treat in prospect. In 1858 she rendered Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," representing twenty-six different characters "in a manner that brought her the most enthusiastic applause." Not all of the dramatic readers were "foreigners." Ed. H. J. Hamilton, who appeared as Pythias in Benham and Pythias and as William in Black-Eyed Susan, made many capital hits, and proved that by study, had he not some years since given up the stage, he would have made a player of no ordinary cast.

In February, 1849, Messrs. Ellis & Parker of the National Theater in Detroit presented a series of representations of their art at the Kalamasoo House. The performance of Henderson as Iago in Othello was particularly moving, for "more than one [was heard to] say that he ought to be 'strooping up!'"

The editor of the Gazette in 1849 printed an editorial defending amusement. Here the same God that planted Veneration in our nature, placed there [the faculty of Mirthfulness], and it is equally as wrong to trample down and destroy the exercise of the one as of the other; for both were intended to serve a useful purpose.

In the same month another editorial was necessary to defend a position taken on the subject of dancing. Through this type of exercise more faculties were brought into play at one time than through any other amusement, manners and poise would be increased, and the physical ditions of the body would be improved by a free circulation of the blood and a healthier tone of the body.

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1 Kalamasoo Gazette, September 26, 1856.
2 Ibid., January 2, 1857.
3 Ibid., August 6, 1858.
4 Ibid., September 28, 1851.
5 Ibid., March 2, 1849.
6 Ibid., March 9, 1849.
which all the medicines and rules of diet can never conceive of. 3

Various dancing schools were opened, or already had been in operation. 3

Solomon Richardson was to open a school at Moses Austin's Assembly Room where strict attention was to be paid to the manners of the pupils. 3

The Firemen's Balls were brilliant affairs. The Ball was usually decorated
in exceedingly good taste. The ladies brought marvelous refreshments, stated the
Gazette, and watched over the tables. The Gazette also commented:

The city of the Barr Oaks has never witnessed a more
magnificent spectacle, than that presented by the
animated assembly [in it] full tide of enjoyment,
and the picturesque and dazzling scenery, by which
they were surrounded.

Ball & Arnold's often provided the music. 5 Each fire company presented its
annual ball, for in the holiday season, 1854-55, the Excelsior Company, No. 2,
hold its annual ball on Christmas night; the Barr Oak Engine Company,
No. 1, held its annual ball on January 12, 1855. 6

The second annual ball of the Star Engine Company, No. 3, was given
February 22, 1855. 7 The Gazette commented on the courtesy of this company. 8

A polite note with a complimentary ticket is sometimes
forgotten, in the bustle of preparation by the older boys
but never by the 'Star.' This reciprocation of courtliness
with the editors is a pleasant recognition of the consider-
ation due to them, for who does more gratuitous labor for the
public than the printers, unless it be the firemen!

Besides attending concerts, lectures, and balls, the citizens of Kalamazoo
witnessed circuses and novelty exhibitions. The performance of the Spalding
and Roger's North American Colossol Dramatic Equestrian Circus, appearing in
June, 1853, 9 was to conclude "with a grand living tableau, in which the 'Father

1 Kalamazoo Gazette. March 16, 1849.
2 Ibid. Dec. 24th.
3 Kalamazoo Gazette. November 12, 1847.
5 Ibid. January 20, 1857.
6 Ibid. December 22, 1854.
7 Ibid. February 9, 1855.
8 Ibid. February 9, 1855.
9 Ibid. June 17, 1853.
of his Country, mounted on his charger in triumphal procession, on the shoulders of his brave Continentals."  

Accompanying the circus was their popular parade during the morning of the day of performance. In connection with the performances the Gazette commented that many circus companies had been splitting up, subdividing, and becoming smaller, which disgusted the public, but that Sand's, Nathan's and Co's. American Circus was really a "circus upon a grand scale."  

In 1856 the Gazette made some harsh comments upon the Campbell's Minstrels, an act of men traveling around the country making Jackanapes [sic] of themselves at the low price of fifty cents a head, and Sand's, Nathan's and Co's. Circus whose elephants came as near to standing on their heads as could be expected from elephants. It stated:  

"The various performances, it is easy to calculate, turned out people of $1,600; had they been called upon to contribute this amount for the erection of a school house, or even to purchase a library for the use of the rising generation [sic], "silence supreme" would have been the response to the application."

The Nixon and Kemple Circus which performed at Kalenagoo in April, 1857, exhibited "a Callipso, a musical instrument played by steam." This "instrument" was to be thrown open for the inspection of the public and the managers invited any lady who might "think [it] proper, to play upon the instrument."  

"The following item announced a peculiar exhibition."

Mr. Gillespie and Mary A., his wife, propose to exhibit seven children at this place, the first inst., all the product of three births. No charge for the exhibition; each one being at liberty to give according to pleasure."

Gen. Tom Thumb, who "has gained an enviable reputation by the number of kisses he has distributed among the ladies in every part of the world," held

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1 Kalenagog Gazette, June 1, 1855.
2 Ibid., June 1, 1855.
3 Ibid., May 23, 1856.
4 Ibid., April 17, 1857.
5 Ibid., April 24, 1857.
6 Ibid., August 15, 1856.
a "truce" at the Court House on June 2 and 4, 1848,¹ and again in September, 1855.² The Gazette addressed the girls³

Put on your sweetest smiles, girls, and give the little host a reception that he will remember with pleasure ever afterward.

Although the dirigible airship was brought to Kalamazoo by Herr Brinckel and Company's Grand Consolidated Circus in 1865,⁴ the first balloon ascension was made by Mr. William D. Brennan of Adrian on June 7, 1869.⁵ The Michigan Central Railroad brought excursionists here for the event.⁶

The weather was poor on the day scheduled for the balloon ascension, so there was some question as to whether the event would take place.⁷ The manager decided not to disappoint the crowd of 15,000, if possible, and announced that church bells would ring a half hour before the ascension.

Three o'clock came and the bells commenced ringing, when the most intense excitement pervaded the throng. Thousands might be seen rushing from all parts of the town to the scene of action. Soon the public park, in the midst of which the balloon was, and all the available space around it was occupied by a dense, eager and expectant crowd. Every eye was intently fixed on the great, cone-shaped bladder, that rose like a good sized hill in the midst of the field, all watching with breathless interest for the signal which was to let the monster off into the clouds, with its human freight, hanging like a giant tessell beneath it. The decisive word came at last...all were breathless with anxiety, for an instant, until the great airship rising gradually and safely above the trees, with its human appendage unharmed, was seen to float gracefully as any bird of the air could do...the sight was richly worth the sacrifice made in coming to witness it.

The balloon cost, nearly $1,500 and requiring one thousand yards of silk, was 66 feet long, 40 feet in diameter, and had a capacity of 26,000 cubic feet.⁸ Fifteen thousand feet of gas was used. Mr. Brennan, however, lost his balloon after floating near Fentonville.⁹ His grappling hook, which he had thrown

¹Kalamazoo Gazette, June 2, 1848. ⁷Gazette, June 10, 1859.
²Ibid., September 19, 1856. ⁸Ibid., June 10, 1859.
³Ibid., June 2, 1848. ⁹Ibid., June 10, 1859.
⁴Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs." ¹⁰Gazette, May 27, 1869.
⁵Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
out to bring him to earth, caught in a tree. At that time a gust of wind broke his safety rope. As he came closer to earth, another gust tossed him out of the basket and the balloon started to rise. Following this incident, Mr. Bamister wrote to the *Gazette*:

"The loss of course is a great calamity to me, not only on account of the intrinsic value of the thing itself, but for the business of which it will deprive me.

P. S.: I will give any person who will square the balloon and give me information of its whereabouts $50. I will be obliged to the press of Michigan to make this announcement."

W. B. B.

Bamister did obtain a new balloon, for it arrived at Grand Rapids, at which place an ascension was announced for the Fourth. The *Gazette* remarked:

In honor of our town, and the hospitality of our people towards him, on his last visit here, Mr. B. has named his balloon 'Kalamazoo.'

While the gentlemen of the village were busying themselves with the Young Men's Literary Association, Young Men's Library Association, political clubs, and the fire department, the ladies were helping with church projects and community projects and participating in the activities of the Young Ladies' Library Association.

The ladies of the Episcopal Church in 1853 held a levee at the Court House on the Fourth of July. The *Gazette* encouraged all to attend:

'It will prove a bright moment, as well as a cool and refreshing one, in your existence; and when the festivities are over, and the 'toastie tells the hour for retiring, go not like a penurious man, 
With your pockets full of old coppers; 
But sustained and soothed by a glass of cream Approach the tables like one who's flush of dimes, 
Pay your bill and go away decently.'

The ladies of the Burr Oak City desired in 1854 to form a Ladies' Park Association for the purpose of improving the village park. Each lady in the

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1 *Kalamazoo Gazette*, June 10, 1853.
2 Ibid., July 1, 1853.
3 Ibid., July 1, 1853.
4 Ibid., March 3, 1854.
Association would be allotted a portion, acceptable to her, to be cultivated and planted with "such shrubbery, balby plants and flowers in such variety and quantity" according to her individual taste. The whole, however, had to be subject to the supervision of the association. It was hoped that the "City Fathers" would "give their aid and countenance to the object by appropriating a moderate sum for the purpose."

Kalamazoo became very much aware of sports during this period, and out of this consciousness grew new societies including the Gymastic Club, the Chem Club, and the Kalamazoo Town Agricultural Society for Improving the Breed of Horses.

The winter season 1848-1849 was one of excellent sleighing, the best one experienced in four years. "Our streets are crowded with teams, and our business men are all at work with their coats off," said the Gazette. Many sleigh rides were given during 1856, leap year, by the fair sex, "who improving the golden opportunity given by custom, and tired of the inglorious inactivity of the old Benedictines, have resolved upon pushing the war into the country. Hold firm, old fellow, your chance is yet good."3

The young people were recommended to play a card game, "Forttests," rather than the card games commonly enjoyed. Printed on these cards were matters of historical interest, so arranged with questions and answers as to be susceptible of forming a very pleasing and instructive game.3

Along with the interest in human anatomy went the desire to build up the body physically. In the latter part of 1857 Dr. J. Hill fitted up a hall over Pickering's Jewelry Store for gymnastic exercises.4 The Gazette commented:

[It] trust that proper provision will be made for the mothers and daughters of our village, to avail themselves of

1Kalamazoo Gazette. December 29, 1848.
2Ibid. February 29, 1856.
3Ibid. April 20, 1856.
5Ibid. November 13, 1857.
the benefits of this institution. It [sic] a lamentable fact that the female race is sadly degenerating for want of a course of life that will afford physical development. The age of sturdy matrons, and human lassos, seems to have passed away, and instead we have a race of sickly 'Flora McFlorence.'

During November, 1857, the Gymnasium was moved to the third story over Potter, Cole, & Parsons. 1

The Kalamazoo Gymnastic Club was organized March 7, 1859, with the object "to develop the physical constitution, and thus lay a foundation for a higher order of men and women." The officers elected included Mrs. E. Taylor, president; W. Bartt, G. S. Crittenden, and Miss L. T. Howard, vice-presidents; Miss E. J. Williams, secretary; G. H. Lyman, treasurer; and S. R. Wheeler, conductor. 2 By a unanimous vote of the members present at the July 29, 1859, meeting, "it was resolved that there should be but one meeting of the club each week, for exercise," and Friday evening was chosen. 3

At these meetings a course of gymnastic exercises are pursued, the tendency of which is obviously to navigate and enlarge a large portion of the muscles of the human frame.

In September, 1859, the members number 150, "a goodly portion of which are females." 4 Payment of a five cent fee for admission was required of all spectators. The fact "that the exercises are interesting to witness as well as beneficial to perform," is shown in the fact that over $26 were realized in admission fees for the month- ending June 30. 5 The Gazette again commented on the value of the Gymnasium and the Club: 6

Certainly its object — the promotion of health and longevity [sic] — is praiseworthy in the highest degree, and most surely to be obtained, in some degree at least, by a judicious performance of proper Gymnastic exercises.

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, November 20, 1857.
2 Ibid., September 16, 1859.
3 Ibid., August 5, 1859.
4 Ibid., September 16, 1859.
5 Ibid., September 16, 1859.
6 Ibid., September 16, 1859.
The gymnasium was "now in the hands of good, responsible and moral men. Parents need have no fear in sending their children, nor gentlemen in bringing their ladies." All "lovers of sound bodies and hence sound minds" were invited. 1

The formation of a Chess Club in the city was contemplated in December, 1858. A chess club "would prevent many young men from seeking scenes of indulgence and dissipation, and hence might be a positive benefit morally if judiciously conducted." 2

The Gazette in 1859 printed, move by move, the chess game between Mr. G. of Detroit and "G. P. J." of Kalamazoo as reported by the Chess Editor of the Detroit Free Press. 3 "G. P. J." was only a lad, "but has already won for him the appellation of the 'Kalamazoo Morphy.'" 4 A chess "amateur" volunteered to furnish articles to the Gazette beginning October 31, 1859. 5

During this period baseball was becoming popular. On May 27, 1859, the Kalamazoo boys, challenged by the Galienburg boys, met them for a trial at baseball. The Gazette reported that after "a warm contest the first two games were won by Kalamazoo — the first by 8 tellies, the second by 12, in a game of fifties." 6 Another test was held June 10, 1859. 7 On June 29, the Kalamazoo boys met the Schoolcraft boys in a contest which resulted as follows: 8

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On the two innings 21

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, September 23, 1859.
2 Ibid., December 24, 1858.
3 Ibid., October 14, 1859.
4 Ibid., June 6, 1859.
5 Ibid., June 10, 1859.
6 Ibid., July 1, 1859.
7 Ibid., June 5, 1859.
8 "Morphy was a nationally known chess player."
9 Gazette, October 21, 1859.
To the turkey shoots at Gull Corners came many of the county's marksmen.1 Those men who were able to hit turkeys at a distance of 80 rods could not help but be effective on the field during the Civil War. These shoots usually preceded Thanksgiving. The promoters of Gull Corners provided 30 or 40 turkeys put up in succession as targets. The best marksmen naturally won the most turkeys, but "many of the winners caring only for skill with a rifle sold their prizes cheaply or put them up as prizes in raffle matches."2 The supper following the match with its plentiful supply of free whiskey was an event to be remembered, it was reported. There were also contests in the amount of all kinds of game with each animal or bird counting a certain number of points. The loser was to entertain the group with a supper — "always an extra good one," too.

During the summer months the boys of the village spent many leisure hours at the old swimming holes in Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River.4 Those were the "playgrounds" of the small lads of 1855. One of the most prominent swimming holes was situated at a bend in Portage Creek a short distance west of the present corner of First and Portage streets. The larger boys, however, favored a hole on the ox bow of Kalamazoo River, the bank of which is the present location of Gobble avenue.5 Never did a man who enjoyed swimming in the bend of Portage Creek or the ox bow of the Kalamazoo River forget his boyhood days, and "many looked back longingly at the time when they congregated at the corner of Main and Burdick streets and were off for an afternoon swim."6

In the July 8, 1932, Gazette a former resident of Kalamazoo, Oscar Calkins, recalled another pasttime of the village boys.6 It was great entertainment for

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1 Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
the children to watch the new fire engine squirt water through its long hose. In imitation of this, they gathered dandelion stems and fastened them together end to end in a line as tall as themselves. By putting the end of a stem into the nose of the log pump in the yard, sucking through, and then letting the end hang, they found that the water would continue to run indefinitely.

Mr. Calkins added that of course "we did not know that we had evolved the scientific principal [sic] of the siphon. This was amusement for us children," even though the resultant mud puddle may have been disturbing to the mothers and a nuisance.
TEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION

The temperance societies in Kalamazoo did not seem to be very active during the period from 1846 to 1860, for very little mention is made of them in the Gazette. During the '50's, however, the citizens of Kalamazoo were well aware of temperance and prohibition. In 1850 a constitutional provision prohibited the sale of liquor in Michigan. In 1853 various prohibition laws were passed, only to be pronounced unconstitutional in 1854 and reinstated in 1855.1 Although Charles S. Hoy, lawyer, and John H. Edwards, judge, did effective work in arraigning and punishing violators in Kalamazoo, the law was defective because Judge Alon Pratt, could not recognize certain suits brought before him under the law.2 In 1854 Kalamazoo was presumably dry, but there were two breweries, two distilleries, and five saloons in the village.3

After many cattle and hogs had died following eating mash from distilleries, strychnine and other poisons were discovered to be used in the manufacture of whiskey, brandy, and rum.4 It naturally followed that many persons would think intoxicating beverages to be poisonous. In 1857, Dr. J. Adams Allen explained that the real poison in liquor was alcohol. He added that while poisonous drugs were used in the manufacture of these intoxicants, scarcely a trace of them remained when the beverages were distilled and ready for the market.5

A very real problem and dangerous situation was the harmful practice by the youths of using substitutes for liquor. A grave warning was issued to parents concerning the use of essences,6 an alcoholic mixture of an essential oil such as essence of peppermint.7

1 Scrapbook. "Social Life and Customs."
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
6 Ibid. November 2, 1860.
7 Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.
We have it from good authority that many young boys consume from one-half to one ounce per day. The evil and danger arising from this practice will be apparent when it is known that essences are made from pure spirits, hence one teaspoonful of the essence usually bought contains as much pure alcohol as one pint of whiskey. It would be far less injurious to the physical system if these youths would purchase and drink one pint of whiskey per day.

In 1853 the Gazette stated that there was some contest in the community for Messrs. Gleason and Smith, the proprietors of the Kalamazoo House, because of their determination to prosecute the liquor traffic in open violation of the law, and added that "they will suffer all the less there is to suffer, both of character and money." The Gazette reminded them that others, too, were not in favor of the prohibitory law, but they were respecting it until the citizens had the opportunity to voice their opinions of it.

At the 25th celebration of the founding of Kalamazoo, Col. E. W. Curtin laid predicted: When the next quarter century comes around, ... Alcohol will then not only be banished from the city, but I very much fear that coffee and tea will be deemed contraband by custom and physiology.

In 1858 a meeting was held by some of the "order-loving citizens" of the community to appoint a committee to confer with the liquor dealers and if possible to induce them to desist from the sale of "ardent spirits." The reasons expressed were that the ardent spirits increased taxes already too high; impoverished those who indulged in their use; had broken, were still breaking, and would continue to break many a heart; dethroned reason, perverted talents, undermined health, dug premature graves in every community; violated the law; and were the "most prolific source of evil in the world." This petition was

1 *Kalamazoo Gazette*, December 30, 1853.

2 * scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."

3 *Gazette*, January 29, 1858.
signed by Alexis Benson and David A. McKair.

The temperance societies did, however, hold meetings and presented lectures. In 1846 Wm. G. Hoyt was the secretary of the Kalamazoo Temperance Society.\textsuperscript{1} On February 2, 1847, the Michigan State Temperance Society anniversary meeting was held in Kalamazoo with the Hon. Austin P. Wing, President of the Society, giving the address.\textsuperscript{2} On March 7, 1849, H. A. Balch, Esq., gave a lecture before the Kalamazoo Division, No. 54, of the Sons of Temperance,\textsuperscript{3} which on February 22, 1850, enjoyed a dinner at the Exchange Hotel, now kept on temperance principles.\textsuperscript{4} The semi-annual session of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance was to convene on April 23, 1851, with Gen. S. F. Cary of Cincinnati, orator and philanthropist, expected to be present.\textsuperscript{5} In May the \textit{Gazette} stated that the celebration took place on April 30 and "was a soul cheering event....All seemed inspired with a common desire to give effect to the great cause of moral and physical regeneration in which all felt so deep an interest."\textsuperscript{6}

In November, 1857, S. W. Hawlett was to speak on temperance at Firemen's Hall.

\begin{quote}
\textbf{Ben. James Meachum of Vermont says} — "Go hear him if you are cross; he will make you happy, and cause you to love yourself and all around you. If you are a victim, listen to him and believe."

[Mrs. Hawlett], the embodiment [sic] of Wit, Fun and Pathos, gave one of his soul-stirring specialties...[to the] largest audience ever assembled in Fireman's Hall.
\end{quote}

This was the first of a series of lectures on temperance, with Rev. Edward Taylor to give the next on November 10, Rev. S. Haskell to give the third on November 24,\textsuperscript{9} and Hon. Henry Montague to continue the series January 5, 1859.\textsuperscript{10}

\begin{flushleft}\textsuperscript{1}Kalamazoo Gazette, July 17, 1846. \\
\textsuperscript{2}\textit{Ibid.}, January 29, 1847. \\
\textsuperscript{3}\textit{Ibid.}, March 2, 1849. \\
\textsuperscript{4}\textit{Ibid.}, February 22, 1850. \\
\textsuperscript{5}\textit{Ibid.}, April 11, 1851. \\
\textsuperscript{6}\textit{Ibid.}, May 2, 1851. \\
\textsuperscript{7}\textit{Ibid.}, October 30, 1857. \\
\textsuperscript{8}\textit{Ibid.}, November 6, 1857. \\
\textsuperscript{9}\textit{Ibid.}, November 24, 1857. \\
\textsuperscript{10}\textit{Ibid.}, January 1, 1858. \end{flushleft}
In December, 1849, the society suggested that many of the citizens were
unaware that the society was holding weekly meetings, at which "resolutions
of a highly interesting, improving and practical character" were discussed by
some of the "most talented members of the Bar, by the clergy and others." The
society also stated at this time:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, all persons using or selling intoxicating drinks as a beverage,
are obnoxious to the charge of producing drunkenness, and
by law ought to be subject to the same restrictions and
penalties as common drunkards, or other disorderly persons.

1Kalamazoo Gazette, December 14, 1849.
2Ibid., December 14, 1849.
In 1847, the Kalamazoo County Agricultural Society was given a boost by the *Kalamazoo Gazette* which said: ¹

"Extra exertions should be made to increase the list of members, and an interest and solicitude should be awakened in the community, beyond that has heretofore been felt, or the society will inevitably have to dissolve, a circumstance which we should [sic] be of incalculable injury to the agricultural interests of this county, and we may say of the state."

The first three annual fairs sponsored by the society were perhaps held at Schoolcraft.² Great exhibitions of household products, in which all the ladies competed against each other with various samples of their handwork, stock shows, a ploughing match, an address on agriculture, and a dinner at one of the public houses were important parts of these fairs.³ The *Gazette* stated the expected results of these fairs to be⁴:

1. Free interchange of sentiment and comparison of products
2. Rapid elevation of the cultivation of the soil from low repute to a higher pursuit of men. "Agriculture is the most noble, healthful, and independent pursuit of man," said Washington.

The fair in 1849 surpassed the preceding one primarily in the great improvement in the quality of the articles shown. Soon afterwards, it was necessary, however, for the society to devise a uniform and equal system of raising money to enable the paying of such premiums as would create actual competition and insure success of the fairs.⁵

The fourth annual Fair was held at Kalamazoo October 10 and 11, 1849.

¹ *Kalamazoo Gazette*, September 17, 1847.
² *Gazette*, October 2, 1846.
³ *Gazette*, October 2, 1846.
⁴ *Abid.* October 19, 1849.
⁵ *Abid.* December 1, 1849.
upon grounds leased of Dr. Starkweather, adjoining the lot occupied by the
First race-course. 1 Although the stock exhibited at the fair was inferior
to that exhibited in 1846, 2 the amount of premiums awarded totaled $169.25. 3
The Society at this time was in a flourishing condition. 4

The Fair scheduled for October 9 and 10, 1850, didn't take place until
the 11th because of bad weather, 5 but the address by Gen. Case "was a masterly
production; and worthy of his literary reputation and his clear and comprehensive
intelligence. 6 The receipts totaled $231 — $74 from memberships and gate money
and $160 from the Board of Supervisors — while the premiums were $190. 7

The turnout for the Fair in 1853 was so great that at midday of the second
day all gates were closed to carriages entering the fair grounds. "Kalamaoo,
probably, never contained so many human beings 8 as on that day. 8

A feature novel to the Fair in 1853 was the booth of musical instruments
exhibited by Messrs. Chandler and Kalamaoo 9 The address by Rev. Mr. Ray
abounded in vitriolism, and if it had a fault, it must have been in that
abundance — more substantial literary food with a spicing of the above might
have been more befitting the occasion, and have been better appreciated. 10

The Society expected the 1857 Fair to be one of the largest and most
interesting meetings ever held. The receipts amounted to $853.14 and the
expenditures were $853.21, a loss of 7 cents. 11

The "proper authorities" in 1859 decided to restore the price of membership
tickets "to the rate originally charged and which other societies throughout the
State are charging, viz. one dollar," in order to make the "events more perfect
and beneficial than ever before. 12 A membership ticket admitted not only the

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1 Durant, Ga., cit., Page 128. 9 Ibid., October 5, 1855.
2 Kalamaoo Gazette, October 19, 1849. 10 Ibid. October 5, 1855.
3 Durant, Ga., cit., Page 129. 11 Durant, Ga., cit., Page 130.
4 Gazette, September 21, 1849. 12 Gazette, August 12, 1859.
5 Ibid., October 10, 1856. 6 Ibid., October 10, 1856.
7 Ibid., October 11, 1856. 8 Ibid., October 14, 1853.
holder but also his family and entitled him to the privilege of entering stock to the grounds. The project of buying permanent grounds was another cause for raising the price of memberships. The executive committee also decided to erect a new fair building, 50 by 24 feet, for the exhibition of articles. 1

Unpropitious weather and drenching showers caused the smallest attendance at the Agricultural Fair in 1859 in many years. 2 "The sheds and offices of the society slept like Niobe, and it was near to impossible to keep the books and paper from a watery annihilation." 3 By noon of the first day only five entries had been made, and the total entries at the Fair were 538, 150 less than the previous year.

The main attraction was Floral Hall "where articles in the finest departments of industrial skill were exhibited." 4 One novel exhibit was "Grimes's wonderful revolving wax figure, showing the superiority of artificial ever used up and broken down teeth..." 5

The Great Prophet, Ryan, wandered about the grounds with his peculiar eyes in a manner similar to Homer. "Homer sang for nothing, or next to nothing, fame, but Ryan, who is a Greek of the Lower Empire, has an eye to business, and goes in for the rocks." 6

In spite of the weather this "may be considered ... the most successful Fair ever held by the Society," because had the "weather been favorable this would [sic] have been the largest and best meeting the Society ever had." 7 The price of memberships might have kept some persons away, but this was not considered much of a factor.

The fact that the receipts in 1860 exceeded the disbursements by $317.23 8 indicates that the Society was in a very prosperous condition from 1850 to 1860. 9

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, September 9, 1859.
2 Ibid., September 30, 1859.
3 Ibid., September 30, 1859.
4 Ibid., September 30, 1859.
5 Ibid., September 30, 1859.
6 Current, op. cit., Page 130.
7 Ibid., Page 129.
THE KALAMAZOO TOWN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR IMPROVING
THE BREED OF HORSES

The Kalamazoo Town Agricultural Society for Improving the Breed of Horses was organized in 1859 with about one hundred gentlemen, mainly from Kalamazoo and the county, although some stockholders were in Detroit, Coldwater, and other places. The success of horse fair held in 1857 led to the subsequent organization of the society. Its purpose and design was "to encourage the people of Michigan, and indirectly, those of the whole country, in improving the breeds of horses." The original stock amounted to $10,000, but an additional $4000 was later assessed. At first, each stockholder could hold no more than one share of $100, but it became necessary to allow a holding of ten shares.

The first officers were the Hon. Charles E. Stuart, president; George F. Kidder, secretary; and William C. Patterson, treasurer. Col. Stuart and Mr. Kidder held their offices throughout the life of the organization.

The National Horse Fairs sponsored by the Society attracted people from all parts of the country to view the fine display of stock in Kalamazoo and to purchase choice stock. It soon became necessary to offer a premium of $2000 in order to obtain the appearance of such famous horses as "Flora Temple" and "Prince." Although the stockholders at first objected, the officers finally arranged to be responsible for the premiums if they could have the proceeds of the fair on the days of the big trots. As a result the receipts exceeded the expenditures and the stockholders readily agreed to such a plan.

The business was conducted strictly on "honorable principles." Jockeying, pool-selling, or gambling were not allowed in connection with the fairs and no

1 Durant, On cit., Page 132.
2 Ibid., Page 133.
3 Ibid., Page 132.
4 Ibid., Page 133.
5 Ibid., Page 133.
time races were permitted. "Every race or trot was graded by age, sex, and amount."1

The first National Horse Show, the Horse Fair of the United States and British North America for 1869, 2 was held on October 12, 13, and 14, 1869.3 Responses to invitations were received from all over the United States. The Michigan Central and Michigan Southern Railroads agreed to transport stock free and the passengers at half fare. 4 Places of lodging for the visitors were requested. 5 "No matter about the eating — give them a place to sleep."6

At the end of the first day nearly 160 valuable animals had been entered,7 led by the Kalamazoo Brass Band, a cavalcade of nearly 250 horses, including those not entered for premiums, extended for three-fourths of a mile. On that day an exhibition of farm and draft horses, in a trial of strength, was held along with a "spirited trial" of speed and a showing of breeding mares with foals by their sides. By the afternoon of the second day nearly 5000 single tickets had been sold. 8

Hona Temple, the world renowned horse, appeared in 1869.9 She made a mile and six feet in 2:19 3-4, a record not beaten for a long time.9 The race track fetes placed Kalamazoo on the sporting map of the country.10 The town has been flooded with strangers, and every house in the city has been thrown freely open. Not less than 10,000 persons have been in attendance,11 stated the Gazette. The receipts were approximately $600.10

In December, 1869, the stockholders of the Society met to make a decision concerning the purchase of grounds. 11 For the Horse Show in 1869, some

1Parent, op. cit., Page 133.
2Kalamazoo Gazette, September 10, 1869.
3Ibid., August 27, 1869.
4Ibid., September 17, 1869.
5Ibid., October 1, 1869.
6Ibid., October 15, 1869.
7Ibid., October 15, 1869.
8Ibid., October 16, 1869.
9Ibid., October 16, 1869.
10Gazette, "Pioneer History."
11Gazette, October 15, 1869.
"Substantial and elegant buildings" were being erected. A stand with seats and desks for the Gazette's "Editorial brother" were erected on the park opposite the stand to be occupied by the visiting committee; consequently every animal on the ground must pass directly before them.\textsuperscript{1}

In September, 1859, the Gazette commented:\textsuperscript{2}

"No fighting, gambling, drinking, or disturbance of any kind can possibly take place under the stringent measures which they \{the officers of the Society\} have determined to take to prevent every thing of the kind."

After the 1859 Horse Show editorials from various Detroit papers were printed in the Gazette.\textsuperscript{3} These editorials praised the town for its expenditure of perhaps twelve thousand dollars, "indicative of a spirit of enterprise which in the end must bring its own reward," and for its "public spirit." The Detroit Daily Tribune commented:

"Some persons object to such exhibitions as the 'National Horse Show,' but we don't think they understand the manner which those Shows of Fairs are conducted. Drinking, gambling, and immorality of every kind are discouraged, and nothing of the kind is found on the National Park, at Kalamazoo."

\textsuperscript{1}Kalamazoo Gazette. July 15, 1859.  
\textsuperscript{2}Ibid. September 16, 1859.  
\textsuperscript{3}Ibid. October 21, 1859.
The Gazette announced in December, 1852, that the young men of the village had held one or two meetings preliminary to the formation of a literary association in which its exercises would consist of discussions, lectures, and readings of essays. ¹

On January 23, 1853, a lecture was to be given before the "Young Men's Association" by George Davis of Detroit. ² His address would consist of hints to singers and students of music.

In February, 1855, the Gazette again stated that a movement was on foot to establish a Young Men's Association "with the view of mutual improvement," adding that among the list of names were many of the "most talented and energetic young men of the village."³ This may have been the same group which met in 1853. The first meeting was to be held on February 16 with one of the members, T. S. Atlee, giving the address. The association was then called the "Young Men's Literary Association."⁴ The members especially requested the Ladies' Library Association to attend to render their encouragement to the new enterprise. George A. Fitch was to give the address on February 23, with the meeting open to the public.⁵

In March, 1855, President Balch requested the members to meet at half past six in order to attend to business before the audience assembled.⁶ Beginning in April, the society was to stand adjourned until the last Friday in September when there would be an election of officers.⁷

Meetings were to be resumed September 28 with Prof. Stone delivering the

¹Kalamazoo Gazette, December 17, 1852.
²Ibid., January 23, 1853.
³Ibid., February 9, 1855.
⁴Ibid., February 16, 1855.
⁵Ibid., February 23, 1855.
⁶Ibid., March 16, 1855.
⁷Ibid., April 13, 1855.
address in the lecture room of the Baptist Church. At that time the Gazette stated that the society was in every way "worthy [of] public confidence and support." The officers elected at this meeting were Volney Hassall, president; Thos. S. Atlee, secretary; and Gibson Brown, treasurer.

The membership of the society and the audience at the lectures must have been small, for in November, 1855, the Gazette remarked:

"We regret and are not a little surprised at the lack of interest manifested by our people in this association... [and] it reflects but little credit upon our town to manifest such an entire want of interest in scientific matters.

In order to arouse interest at this time, the paper stated reasons for the formation of the society:

1. Since Kalamasoe is situated in the center of an agricultural district, farmers would welcome a winter evening's diversion in "well-conducted literary efforts."

2. Since the Ladies' Library is small, the village had no "public library at all suited to the wants of the people." Kalamasoe public "should have [a] library of not less than two or three thousand volumes embracing the standard works on the various departments of the arts and sciences; its tables should be supplied with the leading reviews and periodicals of the day... the design of the association to establish and maintain."  

In February, 1856, the Gazette remarked that the members of the society exhibited "commendable zeal in the discharge of the duties devolving upon them" and suggested:

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1 Kalamasoe Gazette, September 21, 1855.
2 Ibid., October 5, 1855.
3 Ibid., November 23, 1855.
4 Ibid., February 22, 1856.
Would it not be for the interest of our merchants, and business men to aid in the furtherance of this object? Thus, not only producing a resource of usefulness to themselves, but also a place where the young men in their employ, may repair after the labors of the day are ended to find that mental discipline which is so essentially necessary to an honorable discharge of the duties of life.

This project was already being carried out, for a library and reading room for members had been established with the library, the Hon. H. C. Wells, ready to take donations of books and money. 1

The officers elected at the January 22, 1856, meeting consisted of:

T. S. Atlee, president; George Torrey, secretary; and Gibson Brown, treasurer. 2

The meetings of this society were very similar to those of the Kalamazoo Lyceum during the 1840's. 3 One of the members gave an address. Four members, two discussing the affirmative and two the negative, debated contemporary problems and questions.

During the first year of its organization meetings were held from February through the middle of April, 1855, and were resumed again September 28, 1855. Very little mention was made of the society in the Gazette after February, 1856.

The following is a list of some of the questions and debates discussed as compiled from the Kalamazoo Gazette:


1 Kalamazoo Gazette. February 22, 1856.
2 Ibid. February 1, 1856.
4. "Resolved, (That) the Slave power has ever been an aggressive power in this country." November 2, 1855. Affirmative: G. W. Lourie and Thos. R. Sherwood; Negative: Wylye Ransom and Geo. D. Rice.


7. "Resolved, That the political action of the Know Nothing party, is contrary to the spirit of our Republican Institutions." December 10, 1855. Affirmative: Dr. J. Adams Allen and A. Cameron; Negative: N. A. Balch and Frank Alley.

8. "Resolved, That the Bible should be excluded from our Common Schools." December 17, 1855. Affirmative: V. Hascall and G. W. Lourie (Lourie); Negative: A. T. Metcalf and Prof. Putnam.


10. "Resolved, That the present condition of our home and foreign affairs argue the well being and freedom of the Union." February 22 or 25, 1856. Affirmative: George Torrey and T. S. Atlee; Negative: Gibson Brown and Thos. R. Sherwood.
THE LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

About 1844-45 Mrs. Lyman Kendall and Mrs. Alexis Benson adopted a plan of meeting once a week to read to each other for their mutual benefit. When the number of ladies increased to eight, the subject of forming a library association was seriously discussed, and the village was "districted." The ladies then made a thorough canvass for members of the association, taking from each a fee of fifty cents or a book. In this way a library was formed out of the "reading circle," the name of these first meetings.

The organizational meeting of the society under the name of the "Ladies Library Association" was held at the home of Mrs. Frances Dennison in January, 1852. The first board of directors consisted of Messes D. B. Webster, L. H. Stone, Lyman Kendall, Nathaniel A. Belch, Milo J. Geas, Bruce S. Traver, William Dennison, and Elon G. Huntington, with Miss Harriet L. Track as the first librarian. 2 The first constitution was drawn up by Mr. Lyman Kendall, "the first gentlemen to interest himself in behalf of their undertaking." 3

A few weeks later, the Gazette printed an item stating that a "number of the enterprising and intellectual young ladies of our village, have taken measures to form a Ladies' Library Association, for the purposes of social intercourse and mental improvement." 4 An introductory lecture would be given at the Congregational Church on Friday evening, February 13, for those interested in the group.

Mrs. Kendall, president, 5 and Mrs. F. D. C. Traver, secretary, 6 were the first officers of the society.

4Kalamosce Gazette, February 6, 1852.
6Gazette, February 6, 1852.
The first library rooms of the Association after its organization were formally opened March 12, 1852, at the residence of Col. Geo. Rice. 1 Occupying these rooms for only a few weeks, the Association was to have an apartment fitted up in the new Firemen's Hall, stated the Gazette in August, 1852, 2 but nothing seemed to develop. Later, and until the next spring, the Ladies possessed a small room over Austin and Semlinsen's store. 3 In January 17, 1854, rooms were opened in the Court House. 4 In March, 1855, the sheriff threatened to evict the Association from its newly decorated rooms in the Court House, but the ladies petitioned the County Board of Supervisors. In her annual report for the year ending January 25, 1856, the Secretary of the Ladies' Library Association wrote: 6

To several gentlemen for the circulation, preservation, presentation and support of this petition, the Ladies are indebted for their present comfortable quarters.

In August, 1859, the rooms were moved from the Court House to the southeast corner basement room of the First Baptist Church for a rental of $30.00 per year. 6 In order to purchase books for its library and to procure lecturers, the Association obtained money through public entertainments, concerts, tableaux, and membership fees. On January 19, 1856, the Wigs Club and the Kalamazoo Band gave a concert in its behalf. From this $47.21 was realized, 7 which was "a source of pecuniary relief." 8 In October, 1856, the Association proposed to the citizens of Kalamazoo: 9

May not a public library, established upon a legal basis, which has become a permanent thing, belonging to your town, be considered more worthy of your support, then

2 Gazette. August 6, 1852.
5 Ibid. February 8, 1856.
6 Ibid. August 5, 1859.
7 Ibid. January 25, 1856.
8 Ibid. February 8, 1856.
9 Ibid. October 10, 1856.
transient private enterprise, liable any day to be withdrawn from you at the option of an individual?

...[The] members of the Board of the Ladies' Library Association of Kalamazoo, whose interest we were elected to promote, and who have freely given of their time, their labor and their money, to promote its interests without any other earthly consideration, except the good of community, feel deeply interested in this subject, and ask if you, too, will not consider it?

Soon after this plea, citizens were called upon by the ladies for funds.\(^1\)

Membership in the Association, $.60 for ladies and $1.00 for gentlemen, entitled the members to the use of the library, open from 2 to 4 every Friday afternoon.\(^2\)

The funds obtained in this manner were used to purchase books and to rent a room for the use of the library.\(^3\) On December 23, 1859, the Association presented a benefit Tableaux Concert at Firemen's Hall, from which the receipts at the door were $113.94.\(^4\)

The Gazette announced in March, 1854, that the Ladies' Library Association was making plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the settlement of Kalamazoo.\(^5\) The ladies requested interesting reminiscences connected with the early settlement of the village. On June 21, the celebration took place at the Court House.\(^6\) Ex-governor Benson was appointed president of the day and Col. F. W. Curtenius, the orator. J. L. Brown of Schoolcraft presented an original poem entitled "Kala." Following the exercises an excellent dinner, prepared by the ladies of the Association was served at Firemen's Hall. Early in 1855 the society decided to publish a book containing some account of the early history of Kalamazoo and the Quarter Centennial Celebration.\(^7\)

During the period from 1853 to 1856 many volumes were added to the library.

\(^1\)Kalamazoo Gazette, October 17, 1855.
\(^2\)Ibid., August 13, 1859.
\(^4\)Ibid., December 31, 1859.
\(^5\)Ibid., Chapter 12, 1850.
\(^6\)Ibid., February 9, 1854.
\(^7\)Ibid., January 25, 1856.
The annual report of the secretary in 1859 stated that:

No book is admitted which has not first passed the scrutiny of the Board, who mean that all its works shall be, if not of a high moral tone, at least such as shall work no injury to morals or good sense.

Works on the United States and its people, travel, biography, science, art, cyclopedias, fiction, correspondence, poetry, standard works, and theology were added. During 1859 the Association was presented with a map of the State of Michigan and valuable books of reference from senators and representatives.

The secretary's report continued:

We desire to extend to the new institution [Young Men's Library Association] rising amongst us, with objects similar to our own, our friendly courtesies and cordial sympathy, wishing them all due success.

With a complete organization, — with a constitution perfect in its adaptation to our wants — a-corp of ladies experienced in the management of the Library, whose hearts and hands are earnest in the work, — with a room already furnished with limited fixtures, — with a collection of more than seven hundred volumes, and with nearly two hundred dollars in the treasury, we see no obstacle to its extending usefulness, and annual increase in ratio to its years.

In 1859 the constitution was revised and the Board of Directors was increased "in the hope of enlisting [a] larger number who would be active in the interests of the association."

Mrs. J. C. Seely, who was secretary in 1859 and 1860, stated in the 7th annual report that the Association has in a "healthy state of finance" and had improved and increased in every respect over the last two years. During the year it received gifts including public documents and a "copy of the Compiled Laws of our state, and Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

She also gave a word of encouragement to those who had worked the "longest and most earnestly...."

1Genesee Gazette, January 7, 1859.
2Ibid., January 13, 1860.
3Ibid., January 13, 1860.
The present and growing wants of the community —
your gratification of social pleasure, your own improve-
ment — your former success, and the position you have
attained — and the hope of exerting a beneficial influ-
ence — those and other circumstances should, and do con-
spire, to encourage you in the work committed in your
hands.

To those who do not so much need the benefits of the
Library, you who have in your own homes a rich supply of
books and periodicals, let me say, you can at least [least]
contribute of your abundance — share in the benefits of
its social meetings, and help in giving tone and elevation
[sic] of thought, to many who are awake to useful hints,
and seeking social refreshment.

During this same year, 1859, the Association agreed to cooperate with
the Young Men's Library Association in a lecture series. Some of the
lecturers obtained were W. C. Ransom, Rev. J. W. Ray, Dr. Hopkins, the
President of Williams College, and J. B. Saxe. George Davis of Detroit
presented "in one evening's entertainment a Lecture and Concert" which was
"one of the best things of the kind...ever heard...critically exact...but
delightfully entertaining and discursive." In commenting on James Bayard
Taylor, the Gazette said that it was unnecessary to intimate the manner of
treat that might be expected, for his merits were known to "every intelligent
reader." Horace Greeley was "listened to by one of the largest audiences
ever assembled in this place....As a journalist and suggester, Mr. Greeley
may be in his proper element, but certainly not as a leader and constructor." In
his address, the "Homes of New England," Rev. A. L. Stone, D. D., of Boston,
compared the thriftiness of New England with the more conspicuousness of the
South. The editor of the Gazette didn't like this and stated:

God did not make the earth all rocky and sterile; neither
did he make all his creatures Yankees;...God made them
to be different.

2Ibid. December 16, 1859.
3Ibid. December 23, 1859.
4Ibid. March 2, 1855.
5Ibid. March 30, 1855.
6Ibid. December 12, 1856.
Other visiting speakers included Horace Mann, Wendell Phillips, Mr. Shilabot alias Mrs. Partington, and the Hon. Geo. P. March, the ex-minister to Turkey.

In her annual report for the year ending January 25, 1856, the secretary wrote:

The lectures we have been able so far to secure, have been unprofitable in a pecuniary sense, but highly instructive...to all who were so happy as to be present and give attention.

The Gazette also commented on the lecture series.

The ladies deserve much credit for their exertions in securing such an array of talent, and if such be continued, Kalamasoo will soon be one of the highly favored places where centre the elevating influences which exalt a people.

Its usefulness and prosperity ought to be a paramount consideration with every intelligent citizen in our midst....[and] the efforts of those having control of its interest, should be to make it, so far as the lecturing feature in concerned, the organ of the very highest and best cultivated intellect of the country.

1Kalamasoo Gazette, February 8, 1856.
2Ibid., November 14, 1856.
3Ibid., February 6, 1857.
THE YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

A Young Men's Mercantile Library must have existed in Kalamazoo before May, 1858, for in that month the Gazette reported that this group had been formally organized under the name of the "Young Men's Library Association." The officers elected consisted of R. E. Hascall, president; C. D. Scamcomb, vice-president; H. J. Gibson, recording secretary; T. S. Atlee, corresponding secretary; and C. W. Taylor, treasurer. This group accomplished very much toward putting the organization on a firm and permanent basis.  

A constitution and a code of laws were eventually adopted. The first reading room was opened in a room occupied at the time by Mr. Urish Gregory. Since the room was located in the third story, and, therefore, not very convenient, the Association moved to the second story of Mr. Parker's new store on Burdick. Terms were $1.50 a year for five years.  

When negotiations with the Ladies' Library Association towards establishing a library failed, means for raising funds were determined. The two plans decided upon were life membership at a cash payment of $25.00 and annual installments of $5.00 until $25.00 was paid. Twenty subscriptions totaling $500.00 was obtained from the first scheme. 

At the opening of the reading rooms of the Association to the public on Wednesday, December 1, 1858, the Gazette commented:  

We doubt not that this will prove to be an event of great interest and importance in the History of Kalamazoo.

1 Kalamazoo Gazette. May 26, 1858.
2 Ibid. June 4, 1858.
3 In the history of the association printed by the Gazette, July 9, 1859, Foster Pratt was listed as the corresponding secretary.
4 Kalamazoo Gazette. July 9, 1859.
5 Ibid. July 9, 1859.
6 Ibid. July 9, 1859.
7 Ibid. July 8, 1859.
8 Ibid. December 3, 1858.
The rooms were "large, airy, warm in winter, cool in summer, brilliantly lighted and handsomely furnished."

On February 25, 1859, a meeting was held for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps to incorporate the institution. The officers elected at the March 7 meeting were Prof. Daniel Putnam, president; David Fisher, vice-president; M. A. Allen, recording secretary; Dr. Joseph Pratt, corresponding secretary; and Dr. B. Warner, treasurer with Mr. W. Back as the librarian and collector. This second board of officers engaged themselves in the collection of previously subscribed life memberships and the project of increasing the funds. From the life membership plan of cash payments of $25.00 the Association had already realized $375.00 and from the five installments of $5.00 each, $65.00. Total with $5.00 from another source totaled $435.00 for the purchase of books.

In its history of the organization the Gazette continued:

This money has now been expended, and the books thus obtained, together with donations from Rev. Z. Chandler, D. B. Valbridge, Israel Kellogg, and others, make a library of about 700 volumes, nearly 500 volumes all new; by standard authors, and well adapted to the wants of the reading community. The books are now ready for delivery to the members of the Association; and the Library will be formally opened at the Reading Room on Friday evening of this week, at which time all who are interested in this good work should be present. And should not every citizen of our village who desires the diffusion of useful information, the cultivation of reading habits and literary tastes, and who wishes to see some place, to which all, especially our young men, may resort for evening recreation of an elevating and healthy kind — should not all lend their influence not only, but give their means to secure an end so highly desirable?

In September, 1859, the Association announced the gift by D. S. Valbridge of a whole edition of the Annals of Congress. The same year the Ladies' Library Association and the Young Men's Library Association cooperated in a lecture series.

1Talmacon Gazette, December 9, 1858.
2Ibid., February 25, 1859.
3Ibid., March 11, 1859.
4Ibid., July 8, 1859.
5Ibid., July 8, 1859.
6Ibid., July 8, 1859.
7Ibid., September 2, 1859.
8Ibid., September 2, 1859.
On February 14 and 15, 1859, Dr. Tammes addressed both groups of the "Chemistry of the Sunbeam," but no mention was made whether these were joint meetings. 1 While using "an overwhelming array of facts and illustration," his central theme was: 2

That the grand, wide-extending source and basis of all vital and physical force came from the combined action and influence of the starry realms of the Universe, and that acting in conjunction with these, the Sun's rays, in our own system, were the immediate cause of all the phenomena of life, motion, dissipation and reproduction observable throughout the whole realm of Nature.

The library associations planned to bring a talented array of lecturers to Baltimore in a series of "foreign" and "home" lectures for the 1859-1860 season. Included were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rev. Edward Taylor, Rev. Mr. Flagg, Dr. Foster Pratt, Geo. D. Prentice, Prof. Edward Olney, the Hon. E. L. Brown, Volney Eassell, and J. A. Balch. 3

The Gazette commented in February, 1860, during the lecture season that the library associations "were deserving of the highest credit for the profitable and entertaining course of Lectures with which they have furnished our citizens...an amount of useful knowledge has been gained...to say nothing of the pleasure...Done, and Schars, and Tammes, and Prentice, and last, the accomplished Raymond -- that rich and rare treat they have afforded us." 4

The lecture series for the 1860-1861 season was to include such famous speakers as James Bayard Taylor, P. Chipley, Horace Greeley, Ralph Waldo Emerson, G. Osgood, Carl Schars, J. C. Holland, and John A. Gough. 5 Tickets for the course were $1.50, single admission $.25.

1 Baltimore Gazette, February 11, 1859.
2 Ibid., February 18, 1859.
3 Ibid., October 21, 1859.
4 Ibid., February 3, 1860.
5 Ibid., November 16, 1860.
THE LADIES' MOUNT VERNON SOCIETY OF THE UNION

The Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of Kalamazoo was a local chapter of a national society, the Ladies' Mount Vernon Society of the Union, founded in 1858, for the purpose of securing funds for the purchase of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. The ladies of Virginia had power granted by the Legislature of Virginia to hold the property.\(^1\)

The object is the rescue of the Home and Sepulchre of the great leader of our armies, under Providence, and the founder of our civil and religious liberty.\(^2\)

The officers consisted of a chief regent, and a vice-regent for each state. Mrs. D. A. McNair was appointed by the vice-regent of Michigan as the manager for Kalamazoo County to supervise the collection of funds in the area. The Gazette said it understood that she intended to select one lady from each town to work with her. Each subscriber became a permanent member of the society by paying one dollar.\(^3\)

A series of lectures and programs were held in order to raise money for the project. In December, 1859, the Hon. P. W. Shearman, obtained by the Masons, gave one of the earliest lectures in Kalamazoo in aid of the Mt. Vernon fund. His address was to be of special interest to the Masonic brethren. "For Washington was a Mason"\(^4\) Entitled "Mary, the Mother of Washington,"\(^5\) it aroused so much interest that it was to be solicited for publication.\(^6\) On February 7, 1859, Dr. Cyprian, President of the University of Michigan, gave an address on Washington that "excelled anything in the way of a public address that we

\(^1\) Kalamazoo Gazette, January 21, 1859.
\(^2\) Ibid., January 21, 1859.
\(^3\) Ibid., January 21, 1859.
\(^4\) Ibid., December 10, 1858.
\(^5\) Ibid., December 24, 1858.
before had complete a conception of the man, in all his relations as that presented by the lecturer in his masterly treatment of the subject.1

Although no mention was made as to whether his address was for the benefit of the Ladies' Mt. Vernon Association, it undoubtedly must have aroused a great deal of enthusiasm and interest for the project. On February 25, 1859, Prof. E. L. Helden of Kalamasoo College delivered a lecture at Texas in aid of the fund. 2

The ladies planned to present a series of "most brilliant and interesting tableau" in behalf of their cause and were taking pains to make the exhibitions "the most perfect and interesting of anything that has ever been presented in our midst." 3 The "Tableau Vivant" (the Living Tableau) presented on February 25 and 26, 1859, 4 included such pictures as the Statue Scene from "Winter's Tale," scene from Blue Beard, scene from Ivanhoe between Rebecca and Rowena, Captives of Babylon, scene from the Bride of Lammermoor, Count Cagliostro's Magic Mirror, Rebecca imploring Peshmont to spare the Life of John Smith, and Justice and Liberty. 5 The program was "creditably presented." 6

The signal success of these laudable efforts of our patriotic ladies, and their assistants, is a source of great satisfaction. 6

Some of the reports in the Gazette indicated that fairly large sums of money were coming in from the villages of Kalamasoo County. In February, 1859, through the efforts of Mrs. Stephen Eldred the village of Oliper has sent $22.80 to Mrs. B. A. McFar. 7 Through Mrs. Henry Bishop the village of Schoolcraft sent in $41.00 in March. 8

1Kalamasoo Gazette, February 11, 1859.
2Ibid., February 18, 1859.
3Ibid., February 11, 1859.
4Ibid., February 25, 1859.
5Ibid., February 16, 1859.
6Ibid., February 18, 1859.
7Ibid., February 25, 1859.
8Ibid., March 25, 1859.
The Sabbath

Aline

Through the sweet stillness of this bright June morn,
I hear a voice; 'tis that of my best friend
And saith to me, another day of rest
To crown the blessings of the week I send. 6

Oh, by the love, that's guarded every step,
Through all life's blessing, and its mystery,
By thy great need, and thy unbounded might,
Wilt thou not spend its sacred hour with me.

Kalamazoo in its religious activities and movements was typical of the whole country. The denominational college and the theological seminary, such as Kalamazoo College and the Baptist Theological Seminary, came into their own during this period. 7 Religious revivals were popular and with these came the "Great Revival of 1858" of the most recent "Great Awakening." 8

Although the Congregational Church was originally under the Presbyterian form of government and had since adopted the Congregational plan of government (in 1842), it remained united with the Presbyterians until February 5, 1849. 4 At that time the acting pastor, Rev. Charles Hoyt, and 50 members were given letters of dismissal for the purpose of their withdrawal from the Church and the formation of the Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo. 5 The "Plan of Union" with the Presbyterians was formally declared at an end by the first general convention of American Congregationalists at Albany in October, 1852. 6

On February 28, 1856, the installation service for Rev. Edward Taylor, 9

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, July 2, 1857.
2 Colh. The Irrepressible Conflict. Page 244.
3 Ibid. Page 253.
5 Ibid. Page 246.
new pastor of the Congregational Church, was read with Rev. Mr. Hoyt giving the
introductory service. 1

This church and their beloved pastor entered upon their
united work with unusual promise of the richest fruits. A
deep religious interest pervades the community and imparted
to all the services of the occasion an un mengled tenderness
and solemnity.

In 1857, despite the secession of the Presbyterian some years before, it
became necessary to enlarge the Congregational Church, under the "happy influence
of Rev. E. Taylor's pastorate. 2

This needed improvement speaks well not only for the
minister but for the cause of religion in this place.
The new edifice opened its doors for Divine Service on November 1, 1857, 3 with
the dedicatory services in the morning and the Lord's Supper administered in the
afternoon. On October 29 a preparatory lecture was held in the chapel.

In March, 1859, a Bible was presented to the Burr Oak Fire Company, No. 1,
and one to the Excelsior Company, No. 2, by the Congregational Church "as a
testimonial, by the Society, of its appreciation for the successful efforts
of these companies, in January last, in subduing the fire which for a time
threatened the Church edifice." 4 The Kalamasoe Brass Band which volunteered for
the occasion "dissecd some of its best strains." 5

On February 6, 1849, the 51 members dismissed from the Congregational
Church organized the Presbyterian Church. On the 25th of the month 58 others
joined the church. 6 A house of worship had been erected the previous summer and
fall, and it was possible to start a sabbath school as early as March, 1849. 7

After remaining as pastor for about two years, Rev. Mr. Hoyt became district
secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions. 8 In 1857 Mr. John Goodenow,
artist, was employed to "embellish" the church, and in 1860 the church was

1Kalamasoe Gazette. March 7, 1856.
2Ibid. June 5, 1857.
3Ibid. October 23, 1857.
4Ibid. March 18, 1859.
6Ibid. Page 246.
7Ibid. Page 246.
8Gazette, April 17, 1857.
enlarged to about twice its original capacity to accommodate the increased
congregation. 1

Rev. J. A. B. Stone officiated for six and a half years to 1849 at the
Baptist Church and during that time was assisted by his colleague in the
"Baptist Institute." Prof. W. L. Eaton. 2 Rev. E. Anderson, who served from
1849 to 1852 was followed by Rev. S. Haskell. 3 A new building was begun in
1853 and completed in 1856 at a cost of $15,000. 4

In 1846 the members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church decided to dispose
of their building, and on September 3 of that year they laid the cornerstone
for the new edifice. On October 1, 1849, the church became self-sustaining. 5
In 1859 the project of establishing a second Episcopal church was discussed
with the result that St. John's Church was formed the evening of the Feast
of Epiphany, January 6, 1860. 6

On April 12, 1850, the Reformed Church of Kalamazoo was organised. This
church consisted of Hollanders, and the services were conducted in the Dutch
language. In 1850 the church bought property on South street belonging to
the Congregationalists. This included a lot and a frame church. Soon afterwards,
a frame parsonage was built. 7

The dedication of the new St. Augustine's Catholic Church took place
November 14, 1853, with the services performed by Bishop LeFevre of Detroit.
A Mission Jubilee was opened the same day and continued throughout the week. 8

Previous to this time services had been held by various missionaries until the
first Sunday in February, 1857, when Rev. Father Leidere Ant. Lebel became the
first pastor. 9

1 Durant, op. cit., Page 246.
2 Ibid., Page 246.
3 Ibid., Page 246.
4 Kalamazoo Gazette, September 3, 1859.
5 Durant, op. cit., Page 245.
6 Ibid., Page 245.
7 Ibid., Page 247.
8 Gazette, November 12, 1853.
9 Durant, op. cit., Page 247.
The African Baptist Church was organized in 1855 with 9 members and Rev. T. J. Showers as the first pastor. Two years later the frame church was started and this was finished in about two or three more years. On July 27, 1856, 9 members formed the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

During this period nearly all denominations expanded in membership and minor sects were prolific. On Sunday, May 4, 1856, twenty new members were added to the Congregational Church at its communion service. There also was an extensive revival in the Dutch Reformed Church although it was difficult to state the exact number of converts.

Generally the converts are young for the Bible class is in the Sunday School, and their zeal is such as to shame some of the elder and more experienced Christians into activity. During the period from 1852 to 1859 the Baptist Church added 150 to its membership by baptism and 207 by church letter. In 1859 the membership totaled 289.

Although religious liberalism was the exception rather than the rule, Kalamazoo had a more liberal sect. A meeting of the "friends of liberal Christianity" was called in December, 1858. The object of the meeting was stated to be the "formation of a legal organization for the basis of a religious society." The group adopted the name of the Union Congregational Church and Society of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Seven trustees were appointed and Rev. E. L. Blowers of Massachusetts was employed by the Society to hold regular services at the Court House. Previously an organization had existed under the control of the Christian denomination, of which Rev. Mr. Rassell was the minister. In March, 1859, Rev. Mr. Magg announced to his congregation a

1Ibid., Page 246.  
2Ibid., Page 248.  
3Ibid., Page 248.  
4Ibid., December 17, 1858.  
5Ibid., December 17, 1858.  
6Ibid., December 17, 1858.  
7July 2, 1858.  
8Ibid., September 2, 1859.  
9Ibid., Page 249.  
10Ibid., Page 247.
series of lectures "intended to set forth and illustrate the Christian Doctrine." The first one scheduled for April 3 discussed "The Principles and Spirit of Liberal Christianity."

In August, 1859, the "Union Congregational Society" began to make arrangements toward securing a house of worship by the next summer. While Rev. Mr. Flagg was visiting in New England during the summer, Rev. Mr. Russell occupied the pulpit. An item in the Gazette in November, 1859, stated that the morning services, devoted to the study of the Bible, would meet at 10:30 A.M. and the afternoon service at 1:30 P.M.

Increased Sunday school activity was also characteristic of this period. The Kalamasoo County Sabbath-School Association, composed of members of the various evangelical denominations, was organized in Kalamasoo on May 7, 1856. The officers included a president, a vice-president for each township in the county, a secretary, a treasurer, and the executive committee. At the annual meetings, held the third Wednesday in October, reports by the vice-presidents and Sabbath school workers of the work done, the condition and progress of the schools throughout the county, and statistical matters of the schools were presented. The executive committee divided the townships among themselves and each committee member was expected to cooperate with the township vice-president.

The Sabbath School celebrations held late in the summer were sponsored by the Sabbath School Association. The children proceeding two by two, marched to Prospect Hill, "where tables had been erected, and a most ample store of refreshments were in waiting. In 1856 one score of what is now Western Michigan College "was covered with frosted apples and looked like one big white sheet." The celebration included 1800 children and the procession extended for

1 Kalamasoo Gazette, April 1, 1859.
2 Ibid., August 26, 1859.
3 Ibid., November 25, 1859.
6 Gazette, August 22, 1856.
7 Scrapbook, "Pioneer History."
more than a mile. The affair was accompanied with religious exercises and music.

In 1857 the Sabbath School celebration, to be "a soul-cheering time," attracted 5000 people and was "a day long to be remembered in the history of the religious denominations of our County." The procession of "2,400 S. S. Scholars," led by G. P. Hubbard's Brass Band, included a number of delegations carrying banners and appropriate religious slogans such as "God is Love," "We trust in the Lord," "Fear God," and "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another," the oration delivered by Mr. Clinton Ficke, of Coldwater, was a master effort.

The "Pic-Nic" on July 10, 1858, promised "to be the most stupendous gathering ever seen in the country." Children from schools all along the St. Joseph River were coming. It was a glorious day with 700 to 8000 in attendance. A train of 31 coaches brought participants from the west and a train of 18 coaches from the east. The customary parade, plants, and speeches were enjoyed.

The little ones who come here, will be the deeper impressed by the occurrence, of the importance of the Sunday School Mission, and the social and pleasant scenes they encountered will the more encourage them to renewed efforts, and make them the more attached to the genial influences surrounding the Sabbath instruction they receive from week to week.

The gatherings ought to be "beneficial to the children and the cause of Sabbath education."

The S. S. celebrations have become institutions in this County and furnish a great deal of happiness to old and young alike, in an innocent and rational way.

In March, 1859, the Sabbath School Association was three years old, had over 40 member school, and an average attendance of 2,200 pupils. In addition,

1Lemanso Gazette. August 22, 1856. 7Ibid. July 16, 1858.
2Ibid. August 7, 1857 8Ibid. June 24, 1859.
3Ibid. August 14, 1857. 9Ibid. March 4, 1859.
4Ibid. July 2, 1858. 5Ibid. July 16, 1858.
5Ibid. July 16, 1858. 6Ibid. July 18, 1859.
its library contained 6,000 volumes, 325 teachers were engaged, and 111 conversions were reported.

The mental excitability of Americans seemed to lead itself to many kinds of religious forever and metaphysical inquiry. Thus the cult of spiritualism experienced a rapid rise—a veritable craze. To many it seemed religious fanaticism gone mad.

Kalamazoo had its share of spiritualists, too. Mr. and Mrs. J. Clark, editors of the *Spiritual Clarion*, of Auburn, New York, spoke on the facts and philosophy of spiritualism in 1857. Those who desired were given the opportunity to subscribe to the *Spiritual Clarion*.

The "Great Revival of 1853" was characterized by revivals and religious lectures, but the particular feature was the union prayer meetings held in nearly every city. Religious enthusiasm was increasing every day in Kalamazoo. Union meetings for prayer were held each morning at 9 o'clock and preaching at several of the churches each evening. It was a religious awakening throughout the Union. Those meetings continued with increasing interest. A number of business men expressed "a determination to receive Christ as their guide and comforter throughout the remainder of their lives." The work seemed "to be deepening and acquiring new strength."

A Hollander who was unable to speak English wrote to one of the prayer meetings "that he wished to communicate to the Christians here assembled for prayer the extreme pleasure he has enjoyed in beholding what the Lord is doing for America." He added that he could now see how God's Spirit was dispersing prejudice and uniting His people. He was looking for the time when all should join him in "hymning forth."

Rev. Wm. C. Comfort began a course of lectures on Jewish History at the

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3 *Kalamazoo Gazette*, October 16, 1867.
5 *Gazette*, March 26, 1868.
Mr. E. Church on April 25, 1868. Rev. J. J. Slocom presented a lecture on
"What is Truth?" relating the question to Jesus previous to his crucifixion.

God in his Infinite Mercy and justice had provided a
great physician to stone for past transgressions, and
to save from the effects of future delinquencies.

Rev. Slocom "extorted praises even from the lips of life-long skeptics."2

Many forces and conditions were at work to menace the church's monopoly
of the Sabbath.3 Railroads and newspapers were some of the factors which
represented the "envelopment of commercial enterprise."4

The opening of the Michigan Central Railroad on Sunday, February 2, 1846,
and its advent into the "comparatively quiet village" of Kalamazoo marked "a most
important epoch in its history..."5

An engine and a small train had visited on the day...[Sunday]...and such was the intense interest manifested by
the villagers in the new mode of travel and transportation
that not even the usual sanctity of the day could restrain
them...

An individual in Kalamazoo kept a diary and reported the event:7

...At about half past 2 o'clock p.m. on that day, just
after divine service had commenced in the churches, the
shriek, loud and prolonged shriek of the coming locomotive
startled the congregations, producing a sensation of the
liveliest character. The sanctity of the day and the place,
the eloquence of the preacher were in a moment forgotten in
the excitement of the occasion in the yearning which possessed
the heart of every villager to see 'the cars' — and it took
but a short time to transfer the audience from the sanctuaries
to the show grounds, where the locomotive, 'St. Joseph,' and
a single coach stood revealed to the astonished and delighted
people.

Kalamazoo Gazette. April 23, 1858.

2Ibid. August 6, 1858.

3Ibid. On cit., Page 25A.

4Ibid. Page 25A.

5Ibid. On cit., Page 23A.

6Ibid. Page 23A.

7Scrapbook, "Social Life and Customs."
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