## The Erving Gazette

And

# Millers Falls News

For the Year

1884, 1885, 1886, 1887

From the annals of the

Montague Historical Society

Compiled by Ed Gregory For the M.H.S. December, 2023 Albeit, the collection is incomplete, we offer what's available for your perusal, enjoyment, and a look into the determined effort of a local man on a resolute mission.

Both

The **Cruing Gazette** and **Millers Falls News** For the Year 1884, **1885**, 1886, 1887 Are included in this segment.

Jan. 12, 1885 is single side. All others two sides.

A single issue of **Hillers Falls News**, 1885 is two sides.

An introduction from John Adams Taggart



### COPY OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE GAZETTE COURIER IN JULY 1931

By J. A. Taggart

"It may be of interest to some, it certainly was to the writer, to know that the town of Erving and the village of Millers Falls were each at one time the home of a newspaper. Not long since, the writer discovered a sizable book bound in an embossed morocco, on the outside cover of which appeared in gold letters "The Erving Gazette--The Millers Falls News". A perusal of the book revealed that it contained complete files of the above named papers together with a short history of their editor and publisher, William Lester Strong.

The history is here partially given. "Seldom does the life of so young present so much that is so worthy of record as that of the subject of this sketch. Although he had not reached his twenty-eighth birthday at the time of his death, he had attained a position in the community which would be counted success for a man in middle life.

William Strong was born at the home of his parents in Erving, Massachusetts, midway between Erving village and Millers Falls, on January 25, 1874. His education began in the district school near his parents' home, where he very early gave evidence of the brilliant intellect and tenacity of purpose which were marked characteristics of his short but successful life. Here, a little before his tenth birthday, he established the Erving Gazette, which he published regularly each week, until he began its successor, the Millers Falls News.

These little papers were published each week for over four years. William acted as editor, proof reader, and publisher. The printing is better than that of the average County newspaper of that time. The proofreading is excellent and the original and selected items show the workings of an unusually bright young mind and the quaint modesty with which he veiled his own personality. In November, 1885, he moved with his parents to Millers Falls where he continued to attend the public school. Here he published the Millers Falls News, a little paper similar to his previous venture, and did quite an amount of job printing. He was also the correspondent of the Gazette & Courier and the Orange Enterprise. After graduating from the schools in Millers Falls, he attended Powere Institute in Bernardston, where he graduated in 1892.

He then attended Hinmans' Business College in Worcester, where he graduated on April 24, 1893. William Strong was now a young man nineteen years of age, active and unusually intelligent, with a thorough business education and a well grounded habit of industry and thrift, inherited from a long line of New England ancestry reaching back to William Strong, a passenger on the Mayflower. June 1893, he accepted a position as clerk in the freight office of the Boston & Maine railroad at Worcester. In the falk of 1894, he resigned his position in Worcester to become agent and cashier in the freight office of the Fitchburg R. R. at Millers Falls, where he remained a little over five years. January 12, 1900, he became station agent of

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the B. & M. R. R. at Marlboro, Mass. From Marlboro, he was transferred to the freight office of the B & M at Troy, New York, where he quickly became popular with all. On Nov. 27, 1901, he was taken to the hospital suffering with typhoid fever, where he passed to the higher life on Jan. 10, 1902.

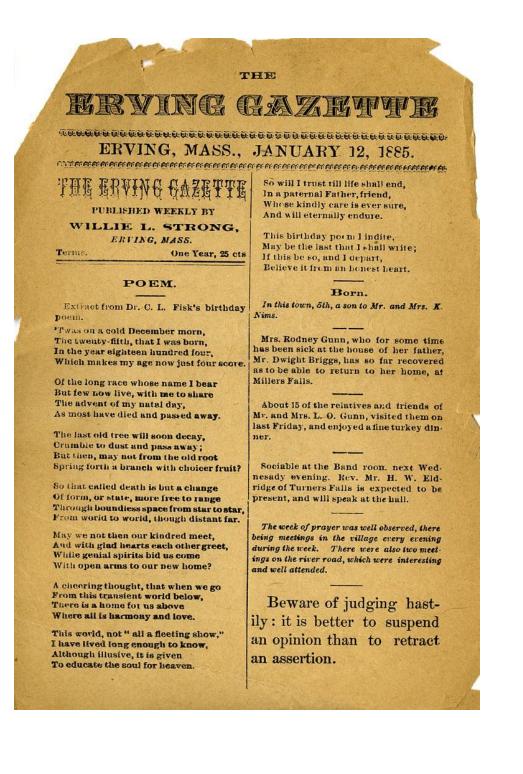
The first issue of the Erving Gazette was dated Dec. 10, 1883, the last Dec. 15, 1884. First issue of the Millers Falls News on Dec. 22, 1884, the last issue on Dec. 31, 1887. Price per year twenty-five cents. The one and only ad appearing in the News was as follows: "Dr. C. L. Fisk, Sen. had devised and prepared a medicine composed of fluid extracts of medicinal roots for the curs of Costiveness, indigestion dyspepsia, loss of appetite, rheumatism, catarrh, bronchitis, malaria, liver and kidney complaint, and all impurities of the blood, kept and sold at his office, 43 Main Street, Greenfield, Mass. There might have been other ills which that medicine would cure but the News was a small sheet and evidently had no space for more than were mentioned.

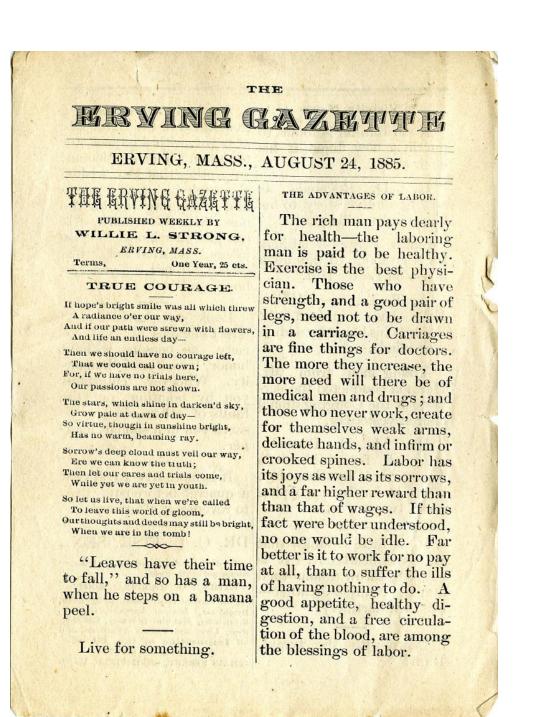
And so the News was born, flourished for a time, and died a natural death like many another enterprise of like nature. Had William not submitted to the lure of railroading; who knows but Millers Falls might not at this time boast of a dangerous rival of the Gazette & Courier, that honorable publication which has survived the vicissitudes of well over a century, and has played its helpful part in the lives of several generations.

John A. Taggart. Millers Falls Historian 1855-1943.

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## Erving Gazette 1885





### Vicinity News.

put in a new flume at his chair shop.

H. D. Reynolds adding another story to his house in the village.

Smith Perry of Millers Falls is about to put up a house on Lester Hill.

A. T. Tenney of Millers Falls has improved the looks of his house by adding new blinds.

Young men from Mt. Hermon conducted the services at the Congregational church yesterday.

Rev. J. H. Parmelee returned from Martha's Vineyard on last Saturday, where he has been stopping about two weeks.

It is little troubles that wear the heart out. It is easier to throw a bombshell a mile, than a feathereven with artillery.

Rum!

An Irishman accosted a Noah Rankin is about to gentleman in the street late at night, with a request for the time. The gentleman, suspecting that Pat wished is to snatch his watch, gave him a stinging rap on the nose, with the remark, "It has just struck one,"-"Be jabers," retorted Pat, "I'm glad I didn't ax yez an hour ago !''

> Look on slanderers as direct enemies of civil society, as persons without honor, honesty, or humanity. Whoever entertains you by pointing out the faults of others designs to serve you in a similar manner.

> It is more wise to prevent a quarrel beforehand than to revenge it afterwards.

## DR. C. L. FISK, SEN.,

Has devised and prepared a medicine composed of the fluid

EXTRACT OF MEDICINAL ROOTS for the cure of Costiveness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Malarial Diseases, Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney Affections, and Down with the tyrant, all Impurities of the Blood. Kept and sold at his office,

43 MAIN STREET, GREENFIELD, MASS.

### THE

# ERVING GAZETTE

ERVING, MASS., DECEMBER 21, 1885.

THE ERVING GAZETTE PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WILLIE L. STRONG,

MILLERS FALLS, MASS.

#### CHRISTMAS TIDINGS.

Christmas bells are ringing, ringing, Of the frosty air, And the Angeis, too, are singing From the sky so fair, – Peace on earth' they're softly singing, Tidings glad they bear!

Cease, sad hearts, your weary sighing— Let your murmurs cease, Cease, O burdened ones! your crying, Ye shall nave release— On the wings of love are hieing - Messages of peace!

Let all evil be forgiven Unto every one; Let sweet gifts of love be given, Let kind deeds be done,--God, our Father, up in heaven, Gave His only son!

Ring, O bells, ring clear and merry ! Let your glad chimes thrill— Let the silv'ry words ye carry Every bosom fill! Christ is boin on earth to tarry— Gift of God's good will!

If our whole time was spent in amusing ourselves, we should find it more wearisome than the hardest day's work.

A MITIGATING CIRCUM-STANCE.—"Well, Ethelinda De Wiggs, I don't see how you could go and engage yourself to that old Slimpkins. Why, he hasn't a tooth in his head," exclaimed Miss. Wigg's dearest friend, when she heard of the engagement.

"Well, dear," was the reply, "you mustn't be too hard on him on that account, for he was born that way."

"He was? I didn't know that, or I wouldn't have said anything about it, was the sympathetic response.

Grief knits two hearts in closer bonds than happiness ever can; as common sufferings are far stronger links than common joys.

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The cultivation of the moral nature in man is the grand means for the improvement of society.

### CHRISTMAS.

There is no other anniversary so dear to the hearts of Christian people as this day, which commemorates the birth of our dear Saviour. On this day, more than any other of all the year, are we led to feel the great love of the "One God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in all," in giving to his erring children his only begotten son, that through his life and example, his teachings, and above all his sufferings and death, we might all become reconeiled to God, and become be called the heirs of the glory of His FALLS NEWS. kingdom.

God has ever been mindful of his children, but this gift of a Saviour was the crowning blessing.

How very appropriate it is that on the anniversary of that glad and glorious day, that ushered in the gospel dispensations, we should celebrate the event with gifts, accompanied messages of love, good wishes, and kindly remembrance.

We always speak of this day as "Merry Christmas," and certainly if we believe in Him whose birth we celebrate we have a right to be merry on that day.

the Dear readers of ERVING GAZETTE, we wish you all a Merry Christmas.

### -----Vicinity News.

Frank Lavalla, while chopping in the woods on last Friday, cut his foot quite severely.

This paper will hereafter MILLERS

A cross beside the name signifies that the time of subscription has expired. We should be pleased to have it renewed.

## DR. C. L. FISK, SEN.,

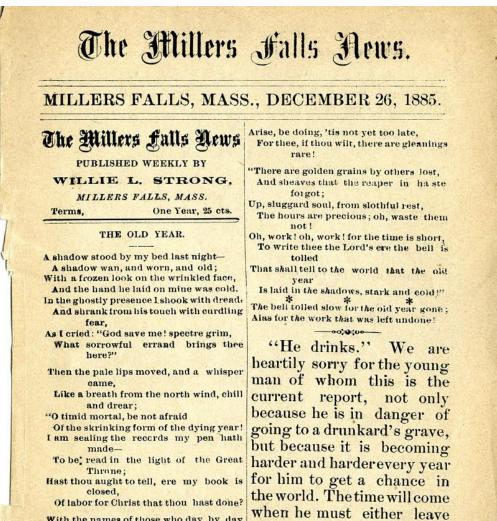
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Kept and sold at his office, 43 MAIN STREET, GREENFIELD, MASS.

End **Erbing Gazette** 1885

Millers Falls News 1885



With the names of those who day by day Scattered the precious seed with tears— Who bound full sheaves in the harvest time.

And garnered stores for the coming cial and business ostracism.

I have vainly looked, oh child of earth, If thine, perchance, might be entered there;

Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul.

off drinking entirely, or

suffer an almost complete so-

### Millers Falls.

We regret to learn that Mr. James Pease has left Millers Falls for the West.

facturing shop has closed for two days, to take count of stock.

The services of Rev. Charles Scott has been secured until the first of April, with the expectation of retaining him longer if Joseph Rankin are at home desirable.

Last night a party of thieves stole a horse at the town farm, a carriage belonging to George Goddard, and coming to this village entered the new variety store, taking articles to the amount of about \$50.

The Christmas entertainment given by the Sunday School, in Union hall last evening, was very interest- DR. C. L. FISK, SEN., The hall was well ing. filled with people, and the trees were bountifully supplied with presents. Santa for the cure of Costiveness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Malarial Diseases, Rheumaception, and we hope to see all Impurities of the Blood. him again in this place next year.

Erving.

H. D. Reynolds is about to move into his new house.

Mrs. P. Wheeler has sold The Millers Falls manu- her house on Main Street to Mr. Stebbins.

> Charles Hanson has purchased the house owned by William Packard on Church Street.

> Fred Woodard and spending the holidays with their friends.

> Charles and Lena Holmes started for Stanbridge, Canada, last Wednesday where they are to attend school this winter.

> Subscribe for the MILLERS FALLS NEWS, which will now be printed every Saturday.

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