Birmingham Eccentric.

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BIRMINGHAM, - - - MICHIGAN

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

THE Indian territory holds 30,000 negroes who were once the slaves of Indians who still hold them as slaves so far as rights at the polls, in the courts or in the schools, are concerned. It was to remedy this evil that a delegation of blacks recently went to Washington.

HERE is a chance for some citizen of the United States—pre-eminently a fishing nation—to win fame and a handsome prize. The Beiglan Academy offers £120 for the best essay on the destruction of fish by the pollution of rivers, and the best means of preventing it. Essays will not be accepted after September 30, 1885.

MR. A. BRONSON ALCOTT has so far recovered his health as now to feel confident that he will be able to discharge his duties as Dean of the Concord Summer School of Philosophy at its approaching session and also to deliver the course of lectures assigned to him in its programme. He is still at his home in Concord, enjoying his daughter's constant care and attention.

AN aged citizen of Cleveland, Peter Kimball by name, has laid the foundation for a universal unpopularity by announcing that the fife, if played with force and resolution, is the best medicine for weak lungs. He believes that he would have been cut off untimely half a century ago except for his fife, instead of which melancholy fate he has every chance of blowing himself into his second century, having already passed his ninetieth birthday with a great store of health and spirits still on hand.

THE son of a Baptist clergyman of Philadelphia, went into the army, and served through the war, faithfully as an officer and uprightly as a man. When he was discharged, to the astoundment and horror of his friends, he promptly and deliberately became a thief, and follows that calling, serving one sentence after another in the penitentiary, refusing to return to his friends and respectability, declaring that he prefers his present mode of life to any other. The case is one without recorded precedent or parallel.

THE Creek Indian troubles, which are now being investigated by Inspector Pollock, date back to the time of the War of the Rebellion. Some of the Creeks fought bravely for the Union, but the disloyal portion of the tribe finally obtained control of the government. They have since been guilty of great harshness toward their opponents, and the loyal Creeks have had many just causes for complaint. The recent disorder was precipitated last December by what some of the Indians regarded as an unfair distribution of the Creek Orphan Fund. Troops have been sent to the Creek country, and the rebellion will doubtless be promptly suppressed. When order is restored, however, it will be incumbent on the government to see that the loyal Creeks who stood by us in the civil war have no longer cause of complaint.

WIGGINS and Keely have each a secret which they are keeping from the world. They ought to be shut up together until they are forced at least to swap secrets with each other. Keely ought to commit to Wiggins the motor that does not move, and Wiggins ought to tell Keely all about the "scientific principle" upon which he is able to predict, three months in advance, a terrific storm that does not come off. But Keely won't tell the secret of the motor, and Wiggins is reported as saying that "there's not a man living who knows the system by which he predicts storms." Moreover, Wiggins intimates that wild horses cannot draw the secret out of him. We suspect that Wiggins is about to start a weather bureau for excursion and picnic parties during the summer season. It would be a great boon to picnic parties to have some such prophet as Wiggins to predict a storm for their days outing. It would relieve them of any further anxiety about the weather.

PROFESSOR Nordenskiold will lead the exploring expedition to be sent out in May by Dr. Oscar Dickson to the east coast of Greenland, where he will search for the remains of Osterbygd, the old Norse colony whose people were exterminated by the black plague in the fourteenth century. The colony consisted of 190 villages, but no traces of it have ever yet been found since the plague.

THE coffee blight seems to be traversing the globe. It has spread from Ceylon and the Fiji Islands to Brazil, where the loss is already so serious that the Minister of Agriculture is making every effort to discover a means of stopping it. The product of one of the largest plantations, which in the past has regularly been more than 200 tons annually, has fallen to an insignificant amount. One theory attributes the blight to minute parasites at the root of the plant; another to exhaustion of the soil through neglect.

AN examination of the younger children of the public schools of Boston, made by Dr. Stanley Hall showed that 18 per cent. of the number had no knowledge of a cow, further than that gained from pictures; 61 per cent. of those examined had never seen an ant; 65 per cent had never seen corn growing; 90 per cent. did not know where their ribs were nor exactly what they were, while only 6 per cent, were ignorant of the location of their stomachs. Some of the children stated that flour came from the grocer, who gets it directly from God; others said that meat is dug from the ground or picked up from the meat tree. From these facts Dr. Hall deduced two other facts—that a gross ignorance of practical things may exist side by side with a very thorough book knowledge and that some modification of the kindergarten method is necessary in the instruction of the young.

AN old lady of respectable appearance was recently arrested at a draper's shop in Paris on suspicion that she was circulating counterfeit coin. A clerk had pronounced bad a silver five-franc piece which she offered him, whereupon she had drawn from a large canvas bag another coin of the same denomination, which he likewise rejected. The police authorities found suspended under her dress by a belt and wires five bags containing 240 five-franc pieces, 1,000 francs in gold, six bank-notes of 1,000 francs each, and 100,000 francs in public securities. In reply to questions the old lady gave her name and address, and said that as she lived alone she always carried her fortune about with her; moreover, she doubted that her coin was bad, as she never accepted a piece without examining it. The Commissary of Police sent the silver to a money-changer, who at once declared that the shopman was mistaken, as there was not a bad piece among the coins. The lady then readjusted her treasure in its hiding place, and left the police station somewhat disturbed by her adventure.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Matters Which are to be Inquired Into and Adjusted.

The provision in the Post Office Appropriation bill authorizing the Postmaster-General to appoint a commission to take into consideration and report upon the condition and needs of the Railway Mail Service, was in accordance with recommendations made by Assistant Postmaster-General Elmer in his report for 1881, and repeated in his last report. The Commission, consisting of Mr. Elmer, Superintendent Thompson and J. S. Slater, chief of the division having charge of the adjustment of the pay of railroads for carrying the mails, have not yet had a meeting. It will not be a roving commission, like that known as the Gardner G. Hubbard Commission of several years ago, but will send out notice of its purposes to the managers of the railroads, and invite an expression of opinion from all sources.

"We want," said Mr. Elmer to a Washington correspondent, "to formulate a law that will do away with all special privileges and with a number of vexed questions. We want to do it with the approval of the railroads as a rule."

"What are the vexed questions to which you refer?"

"The just distribution of pay for services rendered and the question of side supplies are among them. There are roads that in our opinion are over-paid and others perhaps that do not get a fair equivalent for their work. The questions of weight, speed and space ought all to be taken into consideration in adjusting the pay of railroads, and they are hard questions to deal with. We send a pair of boots to San Francisco upon the fastest trains at the same price we send the same weight in letters. Why not send them on a slower train?"

Senator Plumb, who was instrumental in shaping the provision under which this Commission is raised, approves the views of Mr. Elmer. He is in favor of the establishment of a unit of measurement a rate of pay for transporting a given weights in one square yard of space at a certain minimum rate of speed, and paying an additional proportional sum for increase of speed. This would enable the Department to enlarge the fast mail system whenever business demanded it without doing injustice to any one.

Stephens' Secret.

Cincinnati Times-Star.

An instructive lesson may be found in the secret of Alexander H. Stephen's life, as he declared it in a letter to his brother written some years ago. The secret he wrote was "revenge reversed—that is, to rise superior to the neglect or contumely of the mean of mankind by trying to do them good instead of harm, a determination to war even against fate, to meet the world in all its forces, to master evil with good and to leave no foe standing in my rear." His great courage, he declared, had been drawn from his deepest despair, and the greatest efforts of his life had been the fruits of a determination and firm resolve excited by compartively insignificant things. This feeling was the mainspring of his action. When he had looked upon the world, he saw it filled with knaves and fools, and saw in the whole waste not one well of water from which he could draw a drop to slack his thirsting, parched soul; and when, with all hopes blighted he had been ready to lie down and die under the weight of that grief which is greater than all other griefs, "a young heart desolate in the wide world," he had often his whole soul aroused with the fury of a lion and by the ambition of a Cæsar by so slight a thing as a look. He had suffered indescribable agony, too, from a look, from the tone of a remark, from a supposed or an intended injury. But every such pang was a friction that brought out the latent fires. "My spirit of warring against the world, however, never had in it anything of a desire to crush or trample on those who did me wrong; no, only a desire to get above them—to excel them; to enjoy the gratification of seeing them feel that they were wrong; to compel their admiration—this is the extent of my ambition; this the length, breadth and depth of my revenge." That he put these noble sentiments into practice is shown especially in his magnanimous treatment of the man who caused him years of suffering, and of whom he always spoke in terms of consideration and forgiveness." It would be well for the country and well for public men if all such were governed by the same motives.

Comptroller Knox's Statement.

The new internal revenue tax law provides for the repeal of the tax upon the capital and deposits of all banks and bankers, except such taxes as are now due and payable. The tax on capital and deposits therefore ceased March 3. Comptroller Knox says the passage of this act relieves national and state banks and private bankers from a tax on an average of about $1,000,000 a month. The amount of tax collected from national banks on capital and deposits the last fiscal year was $5,959,-702, of which $437,774 only was upon capital, the remainder being on deposits. The tax upon state banks and private bankers was $5,249,172, of which a little more than one-fifth was upon capital. The total tax collected upon deposits and capital during the last fiscal year was $11,208,875. The amount annually collected from the two-cent check stamp is about $2,500,000. The act repealing the use of these stamps takes effect July 1. In order to have a basis for the levy of taxes bankers were compelled to make semi-annual returns to the commissioner of internal revenue. From these returns for a number of years the comptroller of the currency has been enabled to make a complete showing of the financial condition of all the banks of the country. There is no necessity for such returns under the new law and the valuable details in regard to banks will no longer appear, further than can be obtained from the reports of banks as compiled by the officers of the various states. Many of the states do not require such returns to be made, and the aggregate will of necessity be much less complete than heretofore.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

Coldwater is being examined to ascertain its suitability as a location for a canning factory.

James G. Kehoe, master of the barge J. L. Ketchum, died at his home in Bay City recently, aged 43. He formerly commanded the propellers Ontonagon and Elmira, and had sailed into Bay City over 15 years.

A year ago navigation opened at Alpena the 6th of March; now the ice in Thunder bay is two feet thick and stretches out as far as can be seen.

O. Shaw of Allegan county, lost all power of speech some four years ago during a severe illness, although his hearing remained. Recently, during another severe illness, it returned to him.

Flint business men are asked to take stock in an extensive boot and shoe manufacturing establishment.

Detroit is preparing for a magnificent gubernatorial reception, to be given March 30.

John McCarty who was locked up in the East Saginaw jail for drunkenness, had $50 which escaped the searchers. He was robbed in jail by James Annis and others, who paid their fines with McCarty's money and escaped. Annis was arrested.

At the camp of Smith Bros., of Bay City, on Houghton creek, near West Branch, David Small was instantly killed. He felled a tree, which struck an adjacent beech that in the rebound broke off and fell to the stump, by which Small stood, breaking his skull, neck and shoulder. He was 23 years old, unmarried, and a son of the lighthouse-keeper nine miles from Kincardine.

Grand Rapids will soon have a milk condensing factory running in full blast.

The state teachers' institute will be held at Battle Creek during the week beginning March 26.

Henry White, formerly superintendent of the Calhoun county poor house, died at Marshall recently from the effects of a fall received last summer.

Muskegon farmers are much interested in the question of a vegetable cannery at that place, and a committee of two will visit Baltimore and Wilmington to look into the methods, etc.

R. G. Peters attempted to draw a boiler weighing five tons across Manistee Lake. The ice gave way and the boiler, valued at $1,100 went down in thirty feet of water, taking with it the sleigh and one horse.

The Bay City Council has ordered the electric lights on the streets of that city extinguished, as they are unsatisfactory.

Dennis Wolverton, a wealthy and respected pioneer of Genesee county, dropped dead at his home near Flint of dropsy of the heart. He was aged about 70.

A proposed spelling match at Battle Creek, between the lawyers and editors on one side and the school teachers on the other, has been declared off, the teachers having backed out.

A former resident of Adrian, just returned from the south, says he and another Adrian citizen saw Capt. Edwin Hadley, the missing railroad attorney from St. Ignace, on the streets of New Orleans on the 5th inst. Both are well acquainted with Capt. Hadley and recognized him, but he refused to return the recognition.

Commencing Sunday, March 18, 1883, the trains of the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific R'y Company will depart from and arrive at their new union depot foot of Twelfth street, one block from Fort street, Detroit, Mich., where every arrangement has been made for the comfort and convenience of passengers. The trains will leave as follows, viz.: 7:20 a. m., 5:25 p. m. and 10 p. m., city time. Passengers desiring information should call at the city ticket office 167 Jefferson ave., Detroit Mich.

There are indications of serious trouble at Sault Ste. Marie on account of the pestilential surface water which is allowed to stand all through the village. The citizens have risen en masse and demand its drainage, and the village fathers reply it will cost $20,000.

Wheat throughout throughout the state has been seriously injured by ice and snow. In some counties exposure has worked great harm.

A man by the name of John McNamee was killed in a rollway in McArthur, Smith & Co.'s lumber camp at Cheboygan. His body was badly mutilated. He was a sailor. The whereabouts of relatives unknown.

The secretary of the bureau of immigration has received applications for information from an Ohio and a Canadian colony who wish to settle in Presque Isle county.

Dr. S. W. Sleater, one of Charlotte's most learned and respected professional men, died recently of congestion of the brain, aged 60 years. He had lived here over twenty years and was widely known, being prominent in politics and religion.

Gratiot county has favorable prospects of good crops the coming season. The fruit trees are looking good, considering the severe winter, and the wheat crop is favorable.

John F. Grant, a highly esteemed citizen, for 25 years bookkeeper for Hannah, Lay & Co., of Traverse City, died a few days ago. He had been quite sick with scarlet fever but was convalescing, when he was suddenly taken with convulsions and died in a few minutes.

A boy aged 15, named William Keepler, employed in Plumb's mill at Grand Rapids, tending a buzz saw, was struck in the abdomen, and died from the effects of his injuries.

Dr. David O. Farrand, one of the most prominent, and widely known physicians in Detroit, died in that city on the 15th inst., after a brief illness. His illness did not assume a dangerous phase until a few hours before his death, so that the blow fell upon his friends and family with crushing force. Dr. Farrand was a man of brilliant attainments, and was regarded by the profession as a distinguished leader.

Gilbert Warner, a pioneer of Adrian, died suddenly in that city a few days ago.

Chas. Anderson of Fort Wayne, Ind., is reported as having bought 2,500 acres of marsh land in Allegan county, near the C. & W. M. road which he will convert into a hunting preserve, especially for ducks. He is now forming a stock company and a club house will be built.

During the first half of this month 17 children were sent out from the state home at Coldwater, making 820 thus provided for out of a total of 1,288 received since the school opened. Some of them first sent out are now married, while others are receiving liberal educations. The school continues full and more desire admission than can be received, while the demand for the children for adoption is increasing.

Prof. Beal, of the agricultural college, advocates the paying by farmers of their road tax in money, and that the care of the roads be let out by regular contract. This is the Ohio idea and he says it works well. By increasing the tax, and levying it on lands a mile or two back, first class gravel roads are secured.

Grand Rapids'-Dakota party will start on the 29th, its freight train of 30 cars loaded with household goods, etc., starting the day before.

Legislative Record.

SENATE, March 14.—Petitions were presented from S. M. Green relative to supplying his treatise on township laws to certain town officers; for an additional circuit court commissioner for Wayne county; for the submission of a prohibitory amendment; from O. J. Bissel, setting forth certain grievances which he has suffered and asking the passage of a joint resolution for authority to prosecute an action in tort against the State of Michigan.... The following bills were voted upon and passed: To discontinue a certain highway in Troy, Oakland county; for the taxation of fast freight lines, car loading companies, etc.; amending section 3 of act 167 of 1871, relative to the protection of life of railroad trains; to preserve Quanicassee and Cheboyganning state ditch. Re-referred. Senate bill No. 52, to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery in this state, pending its final passage, was referred back to the committee on state affairs. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The following bills were adversely reported from committees and were laid upon the table: To amend section 2 of act 30 of the session laws of 1873, relative to the establishment of an Insurance bureau; to protect lumbermen and others against the use of fire-arms near camps; to regulate the inspection of illuminating oils in Detroit and adjacent townships; to amend section 1671 of the compiled laws for the protection of title to floating logs and lumber.... Petitions were received for homeopathic control of the medical administration of the new Northern Asylum for the Insane; for the submission of a prohibitory amendment; against the incorporation of the village of Williamston, and detaching territory from Wheatfield township; against any restriction of the rights of insurance companies doing business in Michigan; for the incorporation of trades unions; for the amendment of the Baker conspiracy law.... The following bills passed on third reading: To amend act 9 of 1882 relative to the assessment of property and collection of taxes; for the construction of sidewalks within and along highways in townships and villages; to provide for and establish a board of poor commissioners in the city of Detroit; to incorporate the village of Morley, in Mecosta county; to authorize the supervisors of the county of Houghton to buy or build a bridge across Portage Lake; to organize the township of Warner in Antrim county.... The Governor, by message, gave notice of his official approval of the following measures, which originated in the House: The Ypsilanti and Huron River Bridge bill; the bill to transfer certain lands from Portage to Franklin Township in Houghton County; the Wyandotte Incorporation bill, and the Saginaw Court House bill.... After some time spent in discussing the Reilly-Jennison judicial contest and appointing Friday, the 23d inst, as a day for the special consideration of the case, the House adjourned.

SENATE, March 15.—Petitions were presented from sixty citizens of Clinton county and from 250 citizens of Kent county, for the prevention of unjust discriminations by railroads against local freights.... Bills were reported, either adversely or without recommendation, and laid upon the table as follows: Senate bill 105, to cede certain state lands, being part of the State Prison lands, to the city of Jackson for a public street; Senate bill to establish the Michigan Weather Service.... The governor by message signified his approval of the bill to incorporate St. Ignace.

HOUSE.—Petitions were received for the establishment of a Board of Poor Commissioners in Wayne county; for a prohibitory amendment; against the extension of time in which to complete the Marquette, Houghton & Ontonagon Railroad and against any change in the route of the same; for the abolition of the contract system in the state prisons; for a grant of swamp lands to improve the Elk River; for a grant of swamp lands for clearing and deepening Thornapple River.... The Committee on Elections unanimously reported adversely to the claim of Peter Mulvaney, who contests the seat of Stephen F. Snyder, Representative from Calhoun county. The case was made the special order for Wednesday, March 27... The bill amending sections 4733 and 4764, compiled laws, relative to divorce, was lost on its final passage, yeas 42, nays 37. The vote was reconsidered and the bill was referred back to the Committee on Judiciary.... The following measures were acted upon and passed: Amending sections 1,734-35 compiled laws, relative to public health; amending act 243 of 1881, relative to highways; prohibiting law partners of prosecuting attorneys from being engaged in the defense of persons whom the prosecuting attorney is required to prosecute; bill, authorizing Berlin, Monroe Co., to borrow $4,000 to build bridges; amending act 147 of 1881, relative to the insane; organizing Humboldt, Marquette Co.; organizing McMillan, Chippewa Co.; authorizing the loan of tents to the South-western military associations; reincorporating Cedar Springs; for the construction of sidewalks in "Grandport," Ecorse Township; revising charter of Grand Rapids; amending act 164 of 1881 relative to primary schools; authorizing Bay County to donate the Third street bridge to Bay City; to prohibit catching fish with nets at certain seasons in Lake St. Clair; amending the act of 1875 relative to incorporated villages; amending section 5 of act 207 of 1881, relative to Detroit House of Correction; incorporating Lakeside and Cass City.... A resolution was offered providing for adjournment April 21, and for final adjournment April 25. These resolutions were laid over under the rules.

SENATE, March 16—Petitions were presented asking that the medical control of the new Northern Asylum for the Insane be given to a homeopathic physician.... On motion of Senator Bliss the Governor was requested to return the bill amending the charter of Saginaw City. The bill was returned as requested, and transmitted to the House for action by that body.... The bills prohibiting circuit court commissioners from allowing injunctions without notice to parties concerned, and the one appropriating $14,000 for fountains for the capital grounds, were lost.... The bill reincorporating Saginaw City, were received from the House with certain amendments which were concurred in and the bill engrossed and sent to the Governor for approval; The following passed on third reading: Reincorporating West Bay City; incorporating Morley, Mecosta Co.; reincorporating Marquette; amending act 9 of 1882; for laying out a State road in Grand Traverse County; for laying out a State road in Lenawee County; reincorporating Spring Lake; reincorporating Negaunee; amending act of incorporation of Elmwood Cemetery; organizing McMillan, Chippewa Co.; organizing Lakeside, Muskegon Co.

HOUSE.—Petitions were received for compulsory education of children; for the repeal of act 106, session laws of 1881; for the passage of a co-operative labor law; for the passage of Case bills to amend act 156, laws of 1881; against the transfer of any sittings of the Ingham Circuit Court from Mason to Lansing; for the incorporation of Hesperia to Newaygo county; for prohibitory amendment.... The governor announced his approval and signature of the bills to incorporate Pinckney, and amend the game laws; to attach Bradford township to Clam Union township, in Missaukee county; to amend section 1 chapter 4 of act 164 of the laws of 1881, relative to public instruction; to incorporate the village of Mecosta in Mecosta county. The following bills passed: Authorizing the Howell compilation of the general laws of Michigan, to be received in evidence; to revise and amend the charter of the City of Saginaw. Having been returned to the House from the Senate, the vote by which it was passed was reconsidered, divers amendments were adopted, and the bill again was passed; to amend act 175, session laws of 1881, relative to bringing suits against insurance companies; to amend the act incorporating the village of Portland in Ionia county; to incorporate the village of Spring Lake and to repeal act 340 of 1869; to incorporate the city of Menominee. Having been returned from the Senate in accordance with request, this bill was amended and again passed.

SENATE, March 17.—Petitions were presented for uniform rates for the transportation of freights on railroads in Michigan; for the stoppage of discriminations against local freights on Michigan railroads; for the submission to the people of a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.... The Governor communicated his approval of the following Senate measures: 1. The Saginaw Charter bill. 2. The Menominee Incorporation bill. 3. The Bay City Third Street Bridge bill. 4. Bill to amend section 10 of chapter 2 of act 213, public acts of 1881. 5. To amend sections 43 and 44 of chapter 46 of the compiled laws and to add a new section thereto.... The Senate passed the following bills, after which an adjournment was ordered until Tuesday, the 20th: To organize the Township of Humboldt, Marquette Co., and to authorize said township to license hawkers and peddlers; to incorporate the village of Palmer, in Marquette Co.; to incorporate the village of New Buffalo, in Berrien Co.

HOUSE.—The House passed the joint resolution to permit the governor to veto specific items in appropriation bills.... Petitions were presented asking that the medical control of the Northern Asylum be given to the homeopaths; for the appointment of a game and fish warden; for the abolition of the contract system in the state prison; for a law prohibiting manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors; for the incorporation of trades unions.... The House adjourned until the 20th.

HOUSE, March 19.—In the forenoon the House was without a speaker, a speaker pro tem, Sergeant-at-Arms and First Assistant. At the hour for opening the session Mr. White was put in the chair, and later, a call of the House and a search for absentees was ordered, the executive officer being Second Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. A quorum having been obtained, as above stated, the House listened to the reading of the following petitions: For the submission to the people of a prohibitory constitutional amendment; against the submission to the people of a prohibitory constitutional amendment; against certain proposed amendments to the charter of Port Huron; against the removal of the Ingham Circuit Court from Mason to Lansing; for the passage of the Case bills amending the liquor laws; against an extension of time in which to complete the Marquette, Huron, & Ontonagon Railroad and against a change of the route of the same.... The governor communicated his approval of the bill to preserve the Quanicassee an Cheboyganning state ditch.... The House spent some time in committee of the whole, during which time bills were considered and disposed of as follows: Authorizing the consolidation of the Covenant Mutual Benefit Association of Michigan and Illinois. Placed on the order of third reading; forbidding the acceptance and use of passes on railroads by legislators, State officers and judges. Both bills were killed by having all after the enacting clause stricken out.

Lovers of choice literature have a treat in store for them in the perusal of the April Century. Besides the serials by Mrs. Burnett and W. D. Howells, E. C. Stedman contributes an essay on Emerson, which will be the chief literary feature of this number, dealing mainly with the poetic aspect of the subject. A fine portrait of the philosopher, taken when in his prime, accompanies the essay. The April number also contains six full-page illustrations, the most notable being "The Sea" by Elbridge Kingley. This picture has been highly commended by that *connoisseur* of art, Seymour Hayden. Together with the other attractions of this number is an admirably written paper on the "Capitol at Washington," filled with reminiscences of events that have occurred within its walls, as well as an authentic history of the building. This last article is richly illustrated. Among the pictures is a sketch of the scene in the House of Representatives during the Garfield Memorial Services and portraits of Randolph of Roanoke, Daniel Webster, and others of America's distinguished men.

Scene in court: "Now, Mrs. Blank, you say that on that day at noon you saw a woman ride past your house at a furious pace, and you have given us a detailed description of her costume. Please tell us what was the color of the horse." "I do not remember." "Well, was the woman white or black?" "I did not notice; she went so fast I only had time to see how she was dressed."

Professor Samuel P. Langley has taken the trouble to figure out that if a column of ice having a diameter at its base of 45 miles and extending to the moon were erected on one of our western prairies, and all the heat of the sun were concentrated suddenly upon it, it would melt and become vapor in a single second.

A CLEAR CASE.

Auburn hair inclined to curl,
Honest eyes and winning smile;
Form to set the brain awhirl,
Lips that might a saint beguile—
That's the girl.

Taller than the maiden cow,
Truthful, fearless, handsome, strong;
Heart of gold without alloy,
Halting ne'er 'twixt right and wrong—
That's the boy.

Window panes festooned with rime,
Leafless trees and hillsides bare;
Town clock sounding midnight's chime,
Street lamps glimmering here and there—
That's the time.

Nestling at the mountain's base,
With its one long, quiet street
Clasped in winter's white embrace,
Quaint old village, prim and neat—
That's the place.

Truant arm and shy embrace,
Tender vows in willing ear,
Kisses on an upturned face,
Whispered: "Yes, I love you, dear"—
That's the case.

H. A. F.

THE OLD LOVE.

BY CLYDE RAYMOND.

On the fifteenth day of May, 188—, I considered myself the happiest fellow in existence, for I had been engaged for several months to one of the loveliest of girls, and no shadow had ever yet fallen upon our love.

I was not very well off in the world's goods, being but a clerk in the postal service, yet I was perfectly happy, for I knew that Ermine loved me for myself alone, and I was never disturbed by any fears of being married for my money.

On the day mentioned, which chanced to be a holiday, I had run down to her home, situated in a suburban part of the city, and, not finding Ermine at home, made myself comfortable on the parlor sofa with one of the latest periodicals.

Just as a heavy drowsiness was stealing over me a sharp ring at the door-bell startled me to sudden wakefulness again, and sprang up just in time to encounter a messenger-boy with a telegram addressed to myself.

Without stopping to wonder how he had found me so easily, having left no clew at my lodgings as to my destination, I hastily tore open the message and found it to contain news of the most wonderful importance.

An uncle who possessed immense wealth, but whose rugged health and intense vitality had precluded any idea of his death occurring any sooner than my own, had just died and left every penny of his vast possessions to me.

Furthermore, the telegram summoned me to the east without a moment's delay, and, without waiting even to see Ermine, I told my urgent business to her mother and then rushed like a madman to catch the first out-going train.

What strange visions passed through my brain as I leaned back in the car and gave myself up to imaginings of the future thus suddenly opened up to me.

An hour before I had not dreamed of wealth: I had not even wished for it, being perfectly content and happy as I was.

Now, as it by magic, my whole nature was transformed, and I reared wondrous castles in Spain, now and then bringing them to an abrupt termination, however, as I discovered that Ermine had very little place in them.

I found my inheritance even greater than I had anticipated. I did not mourn my uncle's death very much, though I had always loved him—how could I since it had opened such a boundless treasure-trove to me?

My mind was full of my plans. I was now rich, besides being young and passably good-looking (decidedly so, if Erminie's opinion may be accepted) and, of course, a trip to Europe was the first thing that presented itself to my mind.

My good angel whispered to me: "Marry Erminie at once and take her with you. There is no necessity longer for delay." But I repulsed the "still, small voice," and said to myself: "Not yet: for one year, at least, I will taste the sweets of liberty with plenty of money in my pocket."

So I went to Europe, where, through influential friends, I obtained introductions into the highest circles. I threw myself headlong into London's gayety, and, ere many weeks passed by, Erminie was to me simply a memory of the unregretted past.

Among the high born beauties who now smiled upon me was Lady Rosalind Seymour, with whom I soon fell madly in love. She was beautiful as a poet's dream, with melting, black eyes, and hair of such dazzling gold that an artist would have gone wild with rapture over it.

Many men did. I had scores of rivals, but at last I won her, my peerless queen among women.

No thought of Erminie's sad, sea-blue eyes arose to trouble me as I stood with Lady Rosalind before the altar. No pity for Erminie's lonely deserted life troubled me when, with my high born-bride, I left the London fogs behind me and rambled through sunny Italy, or plunged into all the brilliant pleasures of the French capitol.

I was mad with delight. The husband of a countess who was pronounced the most beautiful woman of her time—was it not enough to drive one mad with joy and pride?

Wherever we went Lady Rosalind Palliser was the sensation of the hour, day after day I grew more proud and fond of her until at last I could have thrown myself under the dainty feet of my beautiful wife, to be trampled on at her own sweet will.

I believed she loved me, though sometimes I did fancy that there was not much warmth in her smile, and that there was a certain stately condescension in the graceful bend of that peerless head as she stooped to press a careless kiss upon my brow or cheek. But I was so madly in love that I did not expect a love in return equal to my own. That, indeed, could scarcely have been possible.

Lady Rosalind was surrounded by admirers, but I was never jealous. I gloried in the fact that she was worshiped for her beauty, and was never so proud as when I saw the most distinguished men in the land vying with each other for her smiles.

We lived a year of this life and then came the awakening from my dream of bliss. We were in one of the provincial towns of southern France where, for the first time, I had my lovely wife's society all to myself. How happy I was then, words cannot express.

I remember that day so well. It was the fifteenth of May, and as I walked homeward through the warm sunshine and balmy air of France, I though of Erminie for the first time since Rosalind had thrown her spell around me. I was saying to myself:

"It is just two years since I saw her. It was on the fifteenth of May, the day my uncle's death opened to me the gates of Paradise. Then something made me sigh, and whisper yet lower to my own heart: "Poor Erminie! how well she loved me!"

I reached my home, and entered, unannounced, my wife's *boudoir*. She was reclining upon a sofa, looking unspeakably beautiful, and beside her knelt a handsome man, whom I at once recognized as an officer in the French army, a man of high rank, who had constantly dogged the movements of Lady Rosalind in Paris.

So, then, he followed her down here. Perhaps, I should have thought nothing of that, but that, just as I opened the door, I saw her clasp her white arms around his neck and kiss him.

And such a kiss! Never, in all our lives, had such a love-light shone in those glorious eyes for me.

In that instant the demon of jealousy, so long dormant, took possession of my soul, and striding angrily into the room, I denounced them both so bitterly, that Lady Rosalind sprang to her feet with white face and blazing eyes.

"Ha! ha! ha!" she laughed, scornfully. "Only to think, Edward Palliser, that you should fancy I married you for love. It was merely your money, fool, that tempted me to stoop from my high rank to wed you."

"Would to God I had never seen you!" I cried, in the bitterness of despair. "Oh, that I had never forsaken Erminie, the sweetest, truest love of my life."

Again Lady Rosalind laughed scornfully.

"Go back to Erminie, then, whoever she may be," she said, with mocking disdain. "You fortune is settled upon me, you know, so I really have no further use for you. This gallant officer," turning toward him with a smile that maddened me, "is the man I love."

Great Heaven! was this the woman I had so wildly worshiped? Choking with rage, I turned to the officer who, all this time, had stood pale and immovable as a statue.

"And you, sir?" I managed to gasp, scarcely able to control mysalf.

"Lady Rosalind speaks the truth, monsieur," he calmly replied. "She is, unhappily, your wife, though her love is given to me. But if monsieur desires satisfaction——"

Those were the last words he ever uttered. Blinded with jealous fury, I seized my revolver from the mantel and the next instant a bullet went crashing through the villain's brain.

Then I turned to Lady Rosalind. How white and still she stood, all her light scorn frozen into horror.

But I had no pity for her. Coming one step nearer to her, I fired again, and that ball tore its way through her false and cruel heart.

She fell, bleeding, by her dead lover's side, and then—then once more I pointed the revolver, but this time at my own breast

"Forgive me, Erminie," I faintly whispered.

I pulled the trigger, fired, and then—awoke to find Erminie herself standing beside the sofa, gazing down upon me with a look of mingled anxiety and amusement in her dark-blue eyes.

"Why, Ed, what in the world have you been dreaming?" she asked. "I have stood here watching you for the past ten minutes, and such a look as was on your face just now would have done credit to a first-class highwayman."

I rubbed my eyes, arose, shook myself thoroughly, and then took two or three turns around the room before I could fully convince myself that the terrible experience I had passed through was not a reality. Then I sat down beside Ermine and related my wonderful dream from beginning to end.

Yet, it is true that every incident herein recorded, from the moment I lay down upon the sofa with the magazine in my hand, was but part of a strange and terribly vivid dream.

"So you thought the old love was best after all, Ed?" said Erminie, slyly, after listening with sweet attention to it all; "better, even, than to be the husband of a beautiful countess like Lady Rosalind?"

"Ugh! let's not mention her again, dear, she seemed so horribly real," I exclaimed, shuddering. "But you see I could not bear to lose you, even in a dream. Erminie, to make perfectly sure of you, I think we had better get married very soon."

"What! without waiting for Uncle Leslie's money?" she asked, with wicked mischief in every pretty dimple.

I caught her in my arms.

"Uncle's money be hanged!" I exclaimed, from the bottom of my soul. "If it could make such a fool and scoundrel of a man as I was in that dream, I pray that I may never touch a penny of it."

Uncle Leslie is hale and hearty yet, and often comes to visit Erminie and me, when he laughs with me over my wonderful dream."

SCIENCE NOTES.

The French Government is about to dispatch two more expeditions to Africa for the purpose of geographical research, but with the ulterior object of extending its commerce with the interior of "the dark continent." One expedition, under M. Revoil, will visit Somal Land, the other, led by MM. Aubrey and Hamon, the Galla countries to the south of Shoa.

A French scientist supposes that comets are formed through the medium of enormous explosions in the sun, which drive far out from the body of the great luminary the matter of protuberances, and thus enable large meteorities near the outer border of the corona to collect coronal matter about them and form comets. This is perhaps as good a guess as any.

The London Lancet says, with not too serious emphasis: "It is high time that attention were directed to the subject of narcotics generally, and the use of chloral and bromide of potassium in particular. Incalculable injury is being done, and public opinion is being grievously misled by the tolerance given to the use of 'sleeping draughts,' falsely so-called. In regard to this matter and that of the reckless use of hypodermic injections of morphia, the profession should seek to form a deliberate judgment, and gravely deliver itself At the present moment we are under a heavy responsibility, which it is idle to deny and vain to disown."

A note from Boston informs us that the inventor of the smoke-consuming apparatus to which reference was made not long ago is Robert L. Walker, of that city. Our correspondent adds the interesting item that the apparatus has been employed in a soap stock factory in Cambridge to suppress the intolerable odors emitted in boiling bones and offal, and the experiment has proved a complete success, no offensive smell being perceived near the building. Another important point with regard to this invention is that while the saving in fuel is very great—amounting by actual experiment for several weeks to 60 per cent.—the prevention of fires in forests and on the prairies, caused by sparks from passing engines, will be a far greater saving to the community at large.

The honor of first inventing the incandescent electric lamp is claimed for Mr. Starr, an American, who in 1845 exhibited a light far more brilliant than that obtained from the incandescent lamp of the present day. According to a letter to Nature, "a short stick of gas-retort carbon was used, and the vacuum obtained by connecting one end of this with a wire sealed through the top of a barometer tube blown out at the upper part, and the other end with a wire dipping into the mercury. The tube was about 36 inches long, and thus the enlarged and upper portion became a torrecellian vacuum when the tube was filled and inverted." This carbon was much more durable than the "flimsy threads" now employed. The reason for abandoning the Starr lamp, the writer says, was solely on account of the cost of the power.

We cannot all be Washington's, but we can all be patriots and behave ourselves in a human and Christian manner. When we see a brother going down hill to ruin, let us not give him a push, but let us seize right hold of his coat-tails and draw him back to morality.

"There is nothing like settling down," said the retired merchant confidentially to his neighbor. "When I gave up business I settled down, and found I had quite a comfortable fortune. If I had settled up I should not have had a cent."

THE POSTAL NOTE LAW.

A Description of the Note--Advantages of the Plan--Superior to the British System.

The law authorizing the three-cent 'postal note" directs that its provisions shall be put into operation by the Postmaster-General within six months after the date of its approval by the President. The act was signed on March 3, and the postal notes must, therefore, be ready for the public by September 3, 1883, at the latest The Department officials are not ready to state precisely the time at which they can be issued, but there seems to be no good reason why they should not be available at the opening of the new fiscal year, July 1, as the new law requires little additional machinery. Some time will be consumed in advertising for proposals for the new blanks, etc., that are necessary, which however, are to be furnished by the Public Printer and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, if their estimates are below those received from private persons.

THE POSTAL NOTE DESCRIBED.

A model of the proposed postal note is printed on the back of the reports of the committees of both houses. It is about as large as a greenback. At the right hand are two columns giving the months of the year, and the dates of twelve years beginning with the present. At the left hand are three columns of figures. One representing dollars, is numbered up to 4; the second, representing dimes, is numbered up to 9; the third, representing cents, is also numbered up to 9, and each series ends with a cipher. The note is for sums less than $5. The postmaster at the office issuing the note will punch the month and the year, the number of dollars, number of dimes and number of cents in their respective columns, thus preventing any alteration of the amount or date. By this system the postal notes can be issued for any sum from 1 cent up to $4 99.

No written application will be necessary. The note will be bought like a postage stamp and will be payable to the bearer at any time within three months from the last day of the month of issue. The body of the note is a form stating the office at which it is issued and the office to which it is sent. When paid the person obtaining payment puts his signature upon the note.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN SECURITY.

It is not claimed that the postal note furnishes the same elements of security as the postal order now in use, where written application is made and where the sender's name is privately forwarded to the office where the order is to be paid; but it is believed that its convenience to all classes of people will be so great as to render the decrease in security of trifling importance. It is expected that it will take the place for transmission of money through the mails of the old fractional currency. Since that was withdrawn there has been no safe and agreeable way of transmitting small sums except by postage stamps, which are not regarded with favor as currency, or by the cumbersome process of the postal order.

The postal note system has been in use in Great Britain just two years with great popular acceptance. The last annual report of the British Postmaster-General shows that 4,462,920 of these postal orders, amounting to £2 006,917, had been issued in one year. The average time they were in circulation was six days, showing that there was no foundation for the idea that they would be devoted to permanent use as currency.

SUPERIORITY OVER THE BRITISH SYSTEM.

The United States postal note is, however, better adapted to popular use in several respects than the British postal note. The note, costing 3 cents, can be issued, as already stated, for any sum from 1 cent up to $4.99, while the British notes can be issued only for ten fixed amounts from 1 shilling to 20 shillings, no provision being made for intermediate sums. Our postal note will require only a single blank form, while the British system calls for ten different blanks for the ten grades of orders. The fee for the lowest British postal note is a half-penny; for the highest, 2 pence. The fee for United States postal note will be the same in all cases up to $5—3 cents.

The new rates for postal orders, which are to some extent reductions on existing rates, are as follows: For orders not exceeding $10, 8 cents; between $10 and $15, 10 cents; between $15 and $30, 15 cents; between $30 and $40,50 cents; between $40 and $50, 25 cents; between $50 and $60, 30 cents; between $60 and $70, 35 cents; between $70 and $80, 40 cents; between $80 and $100, 45 cents. No money order is to be issued for a greater sum than $100.

Dakota's Hanging Farms.

Brooklyn Eagle.

"Yes, gentlemen," continued the Dakota man, "we have got the biggest country, the biggest people and the biggest farms there are anywhere on earth. What d'ye think of farms three or four hundred miles square?" and the Dakota man leaned back and enjoyed the astonishment of the mob.

"What d'ye raise chiefly?" asked a quiet man who had taken it all in.

"Wheat," replied the man from Dakota. "We don't do any business but wheat."

"I don't think I want any of it," remarked the quiet man. "It looks to me as though there couldn't be any houses to live in up that way."

"That's so," murmured the crowd.

"Houses!" exclaimed the gentleman from Dakota. "Houses! houses! Why, when I say that Territory contains more and better buildings than all the rest of the United States put together, I am ashamed of myself for the mildness in which I draw it! Houses! Gentlemen, it is a positive fact that there isn't a square foot in that Territory that isn't built over, and in some cases they have to run poles off the roofs of the buildings already erected and on those poles they have built houses right over the streets and roads. That's what keeps us so warm in the winter and cool in summer. The cold and sunlight never get through."

"Do I understand you that every foot of that country is roofed in?" demanded the quiet man. "Is that a fact, or are you gasing?"

"Just as sure's you're born," replied the Dakota man, promptly and confidently. "If a man goes into that district with the idea of building he's going to be left hard."

"In that case," rejoined the quiet man slowly—"in that case, will you be kind enough to explain to me just where those big farms you've been speaking of are located?"

"Stranger," said the Dakota man, "stranger, you think you have put a poser, but there is just where we utilize everything that leads to wealth. Gentlemen, them farms is on the top of the houses, and we put them up there so's to let'em get the sun and at the same time keep them out of the wet! You see, wheat—"

But they interrupted him with a brick.

Position of the New Comet.

Prof. Brooks, of the Red House Observatory, Phelps, N. Y., discoverer of the new comet, says: "Although the comet was discovered by me with the nine-inch telescope, it may be well observed with moderate-sized instruments. Its rapid motion eastward, and away from the sun, causes it to appear fainter than at discovery, but its position for observation is improving. Its position on March 5 was right ascension, 0 hours, 32 minutes; north declination, 32°. On March 9 it will be very close to the mouth of Pisces Borealis, or the Northern Fish, and about 3° southeast of Merach, of Beta Andromedæ. On the 13th inst., the comet will be in the constellation Triangulum, just north of Alpha, of that constellation. From these positions, the direction and rate of motion may be readily as certained, and, consequently, the comet's place beyond the dates here given. About 7:30 p. m. is a good hour to begin observations."

Clarence Fitz-Herbert sends us a beautiful prem beginning "I will wait for my love at Heavven's gate." We think you are about right, Clarence. People who write that kind of poetry seldom get any further than the gate. You'll probably continue to wait there long after the rest of us have passed on inside unless you reform and quit writing poetry and learn to spell Heaven with one v.—Burlington Hawkeye.

LEGAL.

COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE.—In the matter of the estate of John Jones, deceased. The undersigned, having been appointed by the Honorable Joseph C. Powell, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims against said estate, and six months from the 3d day of March, A. D. 1883, having been allowed by said Judge of Probate to all persons holding claims against said estate, in which to present to us for examination and adjustment, notice is hereby given that we will meet on the 5th day of April, 1883, and on the 3d day of September, 1883, at 10 o'clock A. M. of each day, at the store of Whitehead and Mitchell, in the village of Birmingham, in said county, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting such claims.

ALANSON PARTRIDGE,
A WHITEHEAD, JR.,
Commissioners.

March 3d, 1883. m3tom29.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, } ss At a session of the Probate Court for the County of Oakland, holden at the Probate Office in the city of Pontiac, on the 1st day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three. Present, Joseph C. Powell, Judge of Probate. In the matter of the estate of Sarah Hall, deceased. On reading and filing the petition, duly verified, of Horace Hall praying, among other things, for administration of said estate and the appointment of Horace Hall or some other suitable person. Thereupon it is ordered that the 29th day of March, 1883, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned for the hearing of said petition, and that the heirs at law of said deceased, and all other persons interested in said estate, are required to appear at a session of said court, then to be holden at the Probate Office, in the city of Pontiac, and show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted; and it is further ordered that said petitioner give notice to the persons interested in said estate, of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Oakland, three successive week previous to said day of hearing.

(A true copy.) JOSEPH C. POWELL, Judge of Probate.

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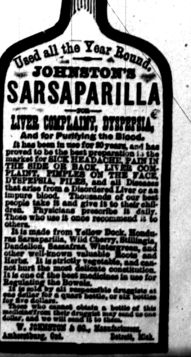
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