Birmingham Eccentric.

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A COLUMBUS, O., manufacturer recently promised a half holiday on Saturday to his 900 operatives if each workman would refuse to attend base ball games on Sunday. It is said that the workmen assented with cheers to the generous proposition.

LOUISVILLE has set in force an ordinance prohibiting the sale of Police Gazettes and indecent papers. It is one of the encouraging signs of the times to see municipal authorities taking an active part in the suppression of the sale and circulation of this not only trashy, but absolutely vicious literature, and the example set by Louisville ought to be imitated by every village and city in this broad land.

THE leading educational question of the hour is how shall our public schools be directed so that they shall most effectually aid the cause of labor? Special schools for the promotion of the fine arts are much to be desired; but above and beyond them, and of paramount importance, stand educational institutions in which the millions of boys and girls growing up into manhood and womanhood shall have opportunities for familiarizing themselves, to some extent, at least, with the practical duties of life.

TEN years ago a penniless man, with a peculiarly shaped head, made a bargain with a London professor of anatomy by which the latter was to have the head on payment of the money and expenses. Meanwhile the man became wealthy, and when he died the other day his friends tried to avoid fulfilling the contract. But the professor insisted, and the matter is to be brought before the law courts. Pending the decision, the defunct gentleman has been buried with his head on his shoulders.

EVEN cow hair has its commercial uses. The dealers who purchase this curious commodity from the tanners "blow" the hair by a peculiar process which separates the long hair from the short ones. The long hairs are then woven into a fabric which other material which, upon completion, becomes the genuine "all wool" blankets presented by Uncle Sam to the Indians. The shorter hairs are worked into felting. The average price of cow hair is four cents a pound, but white cow hair is worth 11 cents a pound.

A WASHINGTON correspondent of the Detroit Plaindealer says: There are occasions when politics, like death, will reduce all men to a common level and in this respect also a Washington political gathering may be somewhat unique, for side by side with the Cabinet officer, the judge and the senator it is possible to find seated, as an equal, the lifeless entity, the man who blacks that cabinet officer's boots or brushes that senator's coat; and both may be heard to "orate" from the same rostrum. This however, is truly American, and nobody has the right to object.

EX-SURROGATE Gideon J. Tucker of New York has attended every Democratic presidential election since 1840, except that of 1868, during which he was in Europe. He personally saw Polk nominated at Baltimore in 1844, Cass at Baltimore in 1848, Pierce at Baltimore in 1852, Buchanan at Cincinnati in 1856, Breckinridge at Richmond in 1860, McClellan at Chicago in 1864, Greeley at Baltimore in 1872, Tilden at St. Louis in 1876, and Hancock in Cincinnati in 1880. He was a delegate to the conventions of 1856, 1860 and 1864, and traveled across the continent from Arizona to attend that of 1880.

AMONG other days observed by members of the Methodist Episcopal church, is that of "Children's day" which occurs the second Sunday in June, the observance of which brings much joy to the hearts of the little ones, and gladness, and makes young again even the white haired fathers and mothers in Israel whose earthly pilgrimage is nearly over. On this day the services are wholly for the benefit of, and participated in, almost exclusively by the children, and the readiness with which they enter into the work of preparation, and the joyousness of the occasion argues well for its influence in bringing many of the young hearts to Him who said "Forbid them not."

MR. WILLIAM CHAPIN, principal of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, relates how Mr. Blaine came to be a teacher there years ago. "He rang the bell at the front door of the building one summer afternoon in 1852 in answer to an advertisement for a teacher. There were thirty or forty other applicants, but his manner was so winning and he possessed so many manifestly valuable qualities that I closed an engagement with him at once. His wife and little son Walker came here with him. He was principal teacher on the boys' side for two years. He taught mathematics, in which he excelled, and the higher branches. His wife often read aloud to the pupils and was universally beloved."

THE Senate bill for counting the electoral vote which passed that body and is now before the House provides that before the second Monday in January, which it fixes as the date for the meeting of the Electoral College, the state tribunals may decide any contest that may arise as to the appointment of electors, such determination being conclusive evidence of lawfulness, when Congress assembles to count the vote. In case the state tribunals have not adjudicated upon conflicting returns, or two or more state tribunals are in conflict over the disputed returns, the returns accepted by the two Houses of Congress voting separately, but agreeing concurrently, shall be valid. In made providing that the two Houses shall vote jointly, instead of separately, upon the returns, which, as a general rule, would practically leave the case to be settled by the votes of the House alone.

A POPULAR New York preacher who struggles to keep the wolf from the door on a beggarly salary of several thousand dollars a year, has been granted a three month's leave of absence, and on Sunday, June 8, preached his last sermon previous to starting for Europe. In his closing remarks he urged the members of his church to be faithful in their attendance at church, no matter if it was hot and uncomfortable, and their own church was closed. Then he denounced Sunday excursions for those who toiled hard all the week, and alluded to Sunday newspapers as belonging to the second table of the Decalogue with them. He closed his remarks by saying that he expected to have an enjoyable time abroad, and asked them to remember him in their prayers. It is hoped that this pastor whose conduct reaches the acme of selfishness, can enjoy a long idle tour abroad with the knowledge that his hard-worked people, toiling for the lovely grace of their means for his trip, are roasting and working at home, without even the privilege of enjoying God's pure air on Sunday.

SAMMY LANG WILLIAMS, a colored graduate of the Lincoln high school, has been awarded second prize for the best essay written by Columbia university, at Washington. Sammy was once a contraband slave and was brought north by Col. Lang, through whose generosity he was sent to school. After graduating with honors from the high school, he entered the university of Michigan, from which institution he graduated, and then went to Washington and finished at Columbia university, and as stated has won for himself high honors at that institution. At the time of his entrance in Columbia a good deal of bitterness was manifested by white students, some of whom went so far as to threaten to leave the institution if he was admitted. He was admitted, and has proven forcibly that men of brains are not confined exclusively to any race, and that the descendants of the sons of Ham, so long in bondage and the "gall of bitterness" can rise above their former position, and with feet placed upon the throbbing dom which bound them, claim recognition as part of the "universal brotherhood of man."

Attention, Boys!

M. Quad in Detroit Free Press.

Hurry up—quick!

Now, my boy, you want to stop dead still! They call this a fast age, and we are termed a fast nation, but in spite of that I have just one thing to say. Take time to eat. Take time to dress. Take time to do whatever task you are engaged in to the best of your abilities. I always feel like kicking a lazy man, and if I set out on a journey I can't go fast enough, but this impatience is only a trap—quick! Hurry up—quick!

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Don't run. The older I grow the less I believe in the man who leaves a clerk at the door behind him. He will be wrong half the time. He will botch his work, upset the best calculation, and lose a dollar for every seventy-five cents he makes. A petulant, impatient boy makes a man who can't keep a friend. He will be obstinate, unreasonable, unforgiving and thoroughly despised. Don't argue that it is born in you and you can't help it. A boy of 10 can help it if he has any manly in his nature. He can exercise patience or give away to fits of anger which ought to be boot-jacked out of his nature to save him from the gallows.

But you hate to be bossed, eh? Well, my boy, if we could all do as we pleased this would be a big country to live in. Our working men would get to their labor at 10 o'clock in the morning and quit in time for 9 o'clock supper. Our storekeepers would open in the morning or wait until afternoon. Our mills and factories would be run to suit the convenience of teamsters and independent landed proprietors. Our trains and boats would leave to suit captains and conductors, and some day you would find yourself president. Then there would be no more bosses and stand bossing. Don't start out with the idea that you can be independent. Don't think you can get along without following some man in you with fat offers. Don't imagine that you are doing anybody a great favor by calling your friends and hinting around that you could be coaxed to take a situation. Do as your employer directs. If he doesn't know his business that's none of your affairs. Make up your mind that the boy who sets out to earn three dollars per week will never get more. If he is determined to be worth four he will soon be receiving five.

I sat down with a half dozen of you the other day, and the opinion of the majority was that employers didn't make any distinction between a smart, intelligent and a stupid boy. Don't be foolish, my lad. Nine employers out of ten had much rather advance a boy than to discharge him. A boy who has to be kicked out of a man, because we make allowances for his inexperience and follies and trifling faults, will be a kicker himself. He is soon sized up. If he is respectful and truthful and honest the employer who doesn't realize it and reward him is no man to work for.

Now let's talk a little further about the flashy literature I referred to a few weeks ago. I went the other day and bought a stack of the stuff in order to see just what it was. When one comes to see the wretched stuff written and published in order to catch the attention of the boys of America he must wonder if we have any fathers among our lawmakers. There is a flashy, dirty, Ned Buntline, sensational weekly sheet called the Young Men of America. He must think them a set of rascals or idiots. In one story he has a hunter who catches in his hand the bullets fired at him by a dozen enemies, and it is no work at all for him to put fifty enemies to flight.

We want such a man on the Detroit police force, but the superintendent will have a long hunt to find him. In another he has a boy who seves or eight mountain outlaws. The boy has probably died since. If this stuff was held out to you as pure fiction, you would be completely disgusted, but in this dirty pub lished know this, and so they have facts and events which are mostly false and hurtful.

In the paper I have mentioned is a story of the revolutionary war. It purports to be the adventures of Gen. Marion and his scouts. The injury here consists in historic lying. You are asked to accept something as fact, when not one single fact is stated. As a specimen of what one of the scouts did when he wasn't trying his best, I will mention that he being pursued by two British dragoons, he let them fire four bullets into him at close range, before (so reported by him that) it was a cold day. He then drew his sword and cut a right arm from the body of each. He then rode on in search of root-beer or something else to cool his tongue, but hadn't cooled over half of it before six other dragoons pitched into him. The first one had time only to draw that same terrible load-sticker and cut off two heads. The other four fired at him, but his brain turned the bullets aside, and he lopped of the head of the third. The remaining three thereupon rushed into the woods, and the scouts were laughing when he came. Having cut off three heads and two arms inside of half an hour, he felt tired. Think of it, boys! Think of it! Like a brave man, but even a boy of seven isn't green enough to believe in such statements.

In a detective story, in which a ninety pound woman is the detective she is made to capture robbers whom three men should be afraid of, she is made her voice twenty-four times per day and her disguise almost as often. She always entered a house by the cellar without being bitten by rats or getting her feet wet, and if any one fired a revolver within a foot of her head the weapon always missed fire, and she calmly knocked the fellow down, and went on chewing her quid of gum as if nothing had happened. Boys who beg and steal and sleep under the wharves are made heroes, and burglars and outlaws are held up as shining examples of a brave nation.

Drop em, my lad! There's more moral poison in a page such stuff as that will get at the circus or theatre in five years. Better be unable to read at all that to imbibe such stuff. You hate a boy who lies to you. Don't you pay these men in money and time to deceive and poison you? If you were told that a hen's nest had deposited six or eight Detroit bargl ers you wouldn't believe it. Then why believe in these wretched exaggerations? Shut right down on that class of trash and publications, and in three years they'll have to earn their dollars in an honest way or you'll hear of 'em behind the bars.

Going to Sleep in Church.

The Rev. D. Charles F. Deems at the Church of the Strangers in New York City put his congregation in a good humor on a recent Sabath morning by saying: "Now, boys and girls, some body has taught you that it is a very improper thing for you to go to sleep in church. Now I don't believe in those teachers, but let me tell you something. During this hot weather you fix up in the morning to come to church, and you get there and the first thing goes as usual, the preacher's voice is just the same, and by and by the wind is coming through the window and you find yourselves feeling drowsy and it is hard work to keep your eyes open. Now, when you find yourselves in this condition go to your mother, if she is your for it; mother will take the hint. The next best thing to close communion with God when you are awake is close communion with Him when you are fast asleep. But you mustn't make a noise while you sleep, do it quietly. I know Sister Smith's little boy and you who makes a good deal of noise, but he doesn't intend to do it. I want to ask the people to pray for him, and I want just to 'hunch' him a little when the noise begins—not hard enough to wake him, but just to stop the noise. There are some people who feel that the church who hear every sound while the sermon is going on, and these noises disturb and so wake up. Now let that be the rule during the summer—when you can't keep awake go to sleep."

Dame Fashion's Freaks.

The hair is no longer worn in bangs reaching to the eyebrows.

Bangs to be fashionable must be short and only slightly waived or curled

White clover blooms take the place of the red so popular for spring hat and bonnet trimmings.

A quantity of narrow velvet ribbon made into rosettes and pompon clusters, is much used by Paris milliners on both bonnets and hats.

London hats and bonnets of rough straw are trimmed with bands and rosettes of velvet, the eye of a peacock feather being thrust in the center of each rosette.

The new garniture for low corsages of evening dresses is a light lace scarf that crosses the neck and is fastened on the right shoulder with a large flower or with a jeweled ornament.

Mushroom brown wool dresses with contrasting facings of cream color dark brown silk are fashionable walking toilets. The bonnet is of brown crape guaged on the edge and trimmed with the wreath of small flowers.

Many new Paris costumes of flowerbrocaded silk, muslin, organdie and exquisitely fine lawn, have both plain and fancy round hats to match, shirred on the brims and garnished with flowers and lace.

Etamine cloth, a coarse meshed linen canvas, is imported among French goods for summer wear. This canvas cloth is manufactured in ecru or natural flax color and goods both plain and brocaded with roses, clusters of carnations, dots and other designs.

Small mantels are worn like scarfs over the shoulders, and are of