Birmingham Eccentric.

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BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN.

TIMELY TOPICS.

The people of Labrador barely eling to their rocky coasts like the sea gulls. They are an amphibious people, gettin most of their food from the sea, scarce ly anything from their barren soil. The failure of the fish harvest is as disastrous to them as the potato rot to Ireland, or the loss of the rice crop to India. So little does their soil yield them that when the fish stand out to sea starvation stares the wretched inhabitants in the face. Their ill luck in the fisheries th's season tempted them ate to make a catch of mackerel While so engaged early in October a violent hurricane swooped down upon them, destroying scores of vessels and several hundred lives. It has left even the huts on the shore of the families of those fisherman, leaving them with neither food nor shelter. The fathers and husbands drowned and unable to provide them with sustenance, the scurvy broke out amongst them; their houses destroyed; the early winter of that region already upon them, it is hard to imagine a bar er fate and more miserable future than that which awaits them.

PENNSYLVANIA has a law declaring void all charitable bequests where the will has not been executed more than thirty days before the testator's death. This regulation is capable of working injustice to worthy charities and defeating the objects of philanthropically disposed pers ns of wealth. A case in point is the recent case. A wealthy lady in her will, made within thirty days of her death, left her property to an aunt during her life; at the aunt's death the property was to go to a cousin, if he survived her, but if not it was to go to certain charities. It happened that the cousin died first; and the aunt is now also dead, but the thirty days statute depri es the charities indicated in the woman's will of what morally belongs to them, and the property reverts to the state. he statute ought certainly to be amended so as to cover such an obviously unmerited will.

In the event of hostilities breaking out between Servia and Bulgaria it is highly probable that every one o the Balkan states will become involved The fighting forces of these are said by a good authority to be: Roumania, 102,000; Servia, 73,000; Bulgaria, 78,000; Greece, 61,000; Eastern Roumelia 25,000; Montenegro, 24,000. As it is possible that all the European powers may also become involved, a statement of their fighting force may be interesting in this connection, it being as follows: Russia, 780,000; France, 530,000; Austria, 286,000; Germany, 500,000; Great Britain, 182,000; Italy, 210,000; Turkey, 180,000; Italy, 210,000. Great Britain's force is small compared with some of the other powers, but she has more money than they, which even in war makes an immense difference.

AN THER conspicious figure of the days of the rebe llion is removed by the death of General George B. Mc Iellan. His military career closed before the close of the war, but his name was prominently before the country all throu h the war and long after it particularly there has been and always will be a diversity of opinion regarding Gen. McClellan's military talent, capacity and services. It is conceded, however, by all his critics that while he totally lacked those qualities which distinguished Gen. Grant and Gen. Sherman, General McClellan was a splendid military organizer. He was remarkably popular among the soldiers of his army. In public and private life Gen. McClellan was esteemed as a man of genuine, unassum ng worth and considerable intellectual qualities.

A comm sion has been appointed to investigate the "white slavery" which prevails in Digby county, Nova Scotia, where poor people are advertised and sold at auction to the bidder. The system is an old one. Sam Slick years ago denounced it as "white slavery." If a person be8omes a pauper he or she is advertised by the county authorities as for a le to the lowest bidder who takes the pauper and agrees to support him or her for the amount of his bid per month, paid by the county, the buyer having the privilege of working the pauper and making whatever he can out of his bargain. The most outrageous abuses are said to be habitually practiced upon these "white slaves."

L. G. MASON of Muskegon in giving his opinion on the ten hour law says: "I now run my mills in accordance with the state law, and I run out just as much lumber a day now as I did before. The machinery runs as fast and the men work a little harder while they are working, but when they quit at night they are not so tired as under the old system of eleven hours."

A DESIRE to return home seems to have become epidemic, so to speak, a long the Chinese of the far west. The Chinese Registration Office in San Francisco was besieged on the 12th and 13th of October by Mongolians anxious to obtain certificates. Many of the Celestials spent a night in front of the office

It takes 12,000,000 sheep to satisfy the appetites of the American people every year.

San Francisco Chronicle: "Be careful when going to a 'blaze' in the Chinese quarter.

Chestnuts, the kind that grow on trees, are rather scarce this season in New England.

The cranberry crop of Burlington county, N. J., will amount to 30,000 bushels this year.

Lack of school accommodation is a growing complaint in all parts of the United States.

Civil courts in Massachusetts are no longer opened and closed by the proclamation of a crier.

Prince Albert, were he married Victoria, was so poor a Battenberg was when he wedded Beatrice.

A clam order for steam yachts have been issued to Mr. Burgess, the designer of the Puritan.

A man swindled recently beat over 3,000 hotels in town of New York out of $5 each. When they finally "dropped on to the game," the rascal had gone dusting for larger towns.

AROUND A GREAT STATE.

Closed Saloon Doors.

In the case of the People vs. Cummerford, for keeping his saloon open contrary to law, appealed from the Recorder's court, Detroit, by the defendant, Chief Justice Morse of the Supreme court, delivers the following opinion, rigidly interpreting the law, and shutting off all evasive subterfuges by which saloonists endeavor to "legally" sell liquor after hours and on Sunday with closed front doors:

Morse, C. J.—The defendant was convicted of the offense of not keeping his saloon closed on the night of the 3 to 4 of January, 1886, from and after the hours of 10 o'clock in the evening until 6 o'clock in the morning of the succeeding day.

Before the jury were impaneled in the Recorder's court of the city of Detroit, where the case was tried, the defendant by his counsel moved to quash the complaint on the ground that it did not set forth any offense under the laws of this state, which motion was denied and exception taken.

John Sullivan, an officer of the Metropolitan Police, testified that the defendant kept a saloon where intoxicating liquors were sold at retail. That there was a restaurant connected with said saloon; that the entrance to the bar-room was on Michigan avenue where liquors were sold, no Michigan Grand avenue side of the building; that the restaurant and bar-room were in separate rooms with a door between them, which closed with a self-acting spring. That the door in question from entrance to the bar-room was closed so far as the witness knew at 10 o'clock, and no person went in or came out of said bar-room by that entrance after that hour; that the defendant or another officer went into the restaurant by the Randolph street door at 11 and 12 o'clock night; that said door was open; that the door leading from the restaurant to the bar-room was closed; that they passed into the bar-room and served the bar-room. Just before they went in there were several persons in the restaurant and pass through the swing door into the bar-room, which was lighted. Was then asked question as to the witness. Whom did you see in the bar-room? objected to by defendant's counsel as incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial. The objection was overruled, and witness testified that he saw the defendant and others at the bar and the bartender behind the bar. Q. What was being sold at that time? objected to for the same reasons given above and overruled. Witness then gave evidence that they were sold drinks on the bar and of what took place in the bar-room, and also that the saloon was continually going in and coming out of the bar-room through the restaurant until 3:30 in the morning.

Other evidence was received tending to show the same state of facts, which need not form a part of the defendant tending to contradict the witnesses for the people, that liquors were sold and no business done of any kind in the bar-room.

The court charged the jury among other things, as follows: "If the saloon was open and people went in and liquor was sold to them, then the saloon was open in the meaning of the law. It makes no difference how wide the door was open or not. If they went into the restaurant and from there found an unobstructed access to the saloon and liquor was sold them in the saloon, then it was open for business. It makes no difference how many people were in there, the only question is, was the saloon open for business?"

To this part of the charge the defendant excepted.

We find no error in the proceedings. The charge was too favorable to the defendant.

If the jury found that the bartender behind the bar, with a spring door from the restaurant which could be pushed open by a push in front, and that people were passing in and out through the same, that was a violation of the statute whether any liquor were sold or not. It was the same, in our view of the law, as an open door or an open entrance without a door. The statute contemplates that a closed door shall be one that can be opened by a mere push of the hand. Such a door is an evasion of the law, as we understand it, the shape it was in, in this case, we are inclined to think would be a violation of the statute without either the defendant or his bartender inside, ready to wait upon customers, because if the public knew that they wanted liquor they would only have to push open this swing door and help themselves.

It was also entirely competent to show what took place in the bar-room. If the bar-room saloon had been securely locked and fastened, both at the main entrance and also at the door leading into the restaurant, and after the hour of 10 o'clock in the evening, the defendant and the bartender had simply handed drinks to others inside, he would be amenable to the statute, because under the law the saloon must be kept closed. When the statute requires the doors to be closed it means that no one shall be inside or get inside thereafter before lawful hours, at least with the consent of the defendant or his authorized agents.

We had supposed the meaning of the term "closed door" under the statute had been fully heretofore set forth by this court in the case of Kurtz vs. People, 40 Mich., 388; Gundling vs. Waldroyd, 49 Mich., 327; People vs. Blake, 50 Mich., 566, and others. It is also the intent of the statute that when the saloon is kept open that liquor for which the saloon is kept open that is offensive to the law, but also the opportunity furnished persons to violate the law after the hours and on the days prohibited by the statute.

We think the complaint sufficient. There being no error the judgment of the Recorder's court is affirmed.

The other Justices concurred.

A Bridge Gives Way

A frightful accident occurred in East Saginaw the other evening. The bridge across the Tittabawassee Boom, lying at the dock about 200 feet south of the Genesee avenue bridge, gave way before 7 o'clock, and a number of persons rushed upon the bridge to witness the fire. Just as the crowd was piled the bridge through and a moment later the float walk on the south side of the bridge, at the inland end, for about fifty feet long, gave way with a crash, precipitating forty to sixty people in the swift current of the river some fifteen feet deep at that point. The night was dark and no lights were near, while the cries of struggling and shouting in the water and the broken debris of the bridge, made up a scene of terror and confusion. As quickly as possible help was obtained, row boats were manned, boards and planks were thrown out and the work of pulling up commenced. Only one grappling iron was at the bridge, but a supply of old iron spikes and the Tittabawassee booms were put into use as soon as possible. The bridge is a total wreck and nearly all of those picked up had drifted some distance down stream.

Blown to Atoms.

A terrible accident occurred on the river opposite Cedar City early in the morning of Nov. 1. About 2 o'clock the tug Frank Moffat blew up while making fast to a raft of logs. Ten feet long, a new way with a crash, precipitating forty to sixty people in the swift current of the river some fifteen feet deep at that point. The night was dark and no lights were near while the cries of struggling and shouting in the water and the broken debris of the bridge, made up a scene of terror and confusion. As quickly as possible help was obtained, row boats were manned, boards and planks were thrown out and the work of pulling up commenced. Only one grappling iron was at the bridge, but a supply of old iron spikes and the Tittabawassee booms were put into use as soon as possible. The bridge is a total wreck and nearly all of those picked up had drifted some distance down stream. A number of the rescued were more or less injured. It is thought several persons perished, as twelve or thirteen are missing. James Wilson was reported badly hurt; John Rothenburg, injured about legs; Geo. Fleming, slightly bruised; Ed Cowles, managing editor of the Courier, was standing on the extreme further point of the bridge when it went down. He could see him in a stroke and was pulled by the masses of struggling people to the bottom of the river twice but got clear and drifting down clung to a raft until rescued, sustaining slight injuries.

One body was recovered at once, that of a boy named Sydney Fallon. The current is very swift, and it is thought that many bodies may have drifted some distance down stream.

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The Tax Law.

In the case of the auditor-general against Tuttle, circuit judge, a mandamus was denied in the supreme court. The latter tuttle enjoined the sale of certain lands in Iosco county for taxes of 1883. The auditor-general applied for a mandamus ordering Tuttle to plead for an injunction, on the ground that the act 1885 provides that "no injunction shall issue to stay proceedings for the assessment or collection of taxes imposed by this act." In opinion Chief Justice Morse says: "Without passing upon the question of the legislature to take effect on the circuit court in chancery, the power to grant injunction in any case where without such relief, as here, the complainant would have a plain and adequate remedy at law, and upon his title to a large amount of lands, without one penny of taxes ever having been paid, we think it could not have been the design of the legislature that in the granting of the issue of any injunction upon the question of the sale of lands for taxes assessed and levied before the passage of the present law, and that cause issuing the prohibition therein contained to the auditor-general."

The court therefore does not pass upon the constitutionality of the act of 1885, and consequently the probability of an extra session of the legislature grows dimmer.

Convicts Paroled.

Gov. Alger has granted the following pardons on recommendation of the pardon board: Charles E. Wright, sent from Redford, Wayne county, for life in 1881 for killing his wife's father by poisoning. His former neighbors petition it was a case of suicide, and he was innocent. James H. Hampton, sent up in 1882 from Detroit for seven years for burglary. Testimony against him was given away from saloons and don't drink. Delbert Livermore, sent from Lenawee county for life in 1881 for killing eight years for the larceny of a horse. The testimony against him is that he was simple and his pernicious character was good. Edgar O'Rourke, sent from Detroit for five years for burglary. Dora Lee, sent for five years for larceny committed when drunk. The complaining witness recommended the pardon. Mrs. Mary Ann Christopher, sent from Oakland county for life in 1881 for killing her husband by poisoning $2 under false pretenses. He must also keep away from strong drink.

Democratic Victory.

The result of the municipal election held in Detroit on Nov. 2 was a great victory for the Democrats, every man but one on the ticket being elected, the majorities ranging from 1,376 to 5,000.

MINOR STATE HAPPENINGS.

There are 241 men employed in the new machine shops at Jackson, as follows: In the old shops, 85; machine shops, 60; car shops, 50; blacksmith shop, 23; boiler shop, 25; brass room, 1; cooper shop, 9; round house, 26, and paint shop, 3. There are 24 new locomotives on the central division of the railroad. They are all built at Jackson.

The plan of double crewing the locomotives since extended to the Detroit line. It is in force on reaching the shops Is not locked down, but when her fire has been dumped and fresh coal put in she makes the next trip with a fresh crew, and is thus kept in active service until in need of repairs.—Jackson Citizen.

A horrible accident occurred at River Raisin station, three miles south of Clinton. Michael Stephonowski, a farmer living near the station, had two cows, which, in the same calving. He went out from the house to drive them to the barn, when one of the boys to arise a report was heard, when it was found that a bullet had been discharged, and that Fred's aged years had been killed. The elder boy, Philip, is under arrest. The shooting was evidently accidental