Birmingham Eccentric.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, Publ.

BIRMINGHAM, - - MICHIGAN.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE Harbor Springs Independent is responsible for the allegation that M. W. Newkirk, on the Bellaire Breeze, handsomest young newspaper man n that region, is somewhat absent-minded, which explains his sending to his best girl the following remarkable letter: "Dearest I have carefully analyzed the feelings I entertain for you, and the result is substantially as follows: adore you. Will you be mine? Answer. Write only on one side of the paper. Write plainly and give full name, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith."

KATE SMUDLEY died on the 9th inst, at Fort Plain, N. Y. She has been living in a comatose condition for several days. Death had been expected at any time, but she gave no indications of it until the last moment. There is no doubt that from the 11th day of March, 1884, till the day before Thanksgiving last, she did not eat anything. Upon that day she experienced a peculiar sensation like the breaking away of something in her stomach, and since then she had been able to take a little nourishment in the shape of wine or whey. She was very much emaciated, and weighed scarcely 25 pounds.

THE agricultural college has issued its first bulletin—a pamphlet of 11 pages. It is prepared by the chemical department and treats of "Early Amber Cane as a Forage Crop." Replies from correspondents in many of the counties of the states giving their experiments are printed. This bulletin is the first of a series of papers which will be prepared by the various departments and published. A bill already passed authorizes the publication of the results of experiments in newspaper articles and bulletin pamphlets. It is desired to further amend the bill—and such action will be taken in the House—that a list of prominent farmers throughout the state will be kept and to them will be transmitted these useful bits of knowledge. All experiments, whether successful or not, will be explained.

A conference of "representative business men of the whole country" will be held at Atlanta, Georgia, on the 19th of May. In the circular of invitation sent out by Mr. H. I. Kimball, Chairman of the Executive Committee, it is called a National Commercial Convention. The general object is to consider the most effective means to promote the business interests of the United States. Commercial and reciprocity treaties, a National bankrupt law, the compulsory coinage of silver, and railway transportation, are some of the subjects to be discussed. If intelligent and thoughtful business men, who are really representative of the great commercial classes, go to Atlanta and take part in discussions, this conference will doubtless have a good effect in giving force to public opinion on important questions which will come before Congress next winter.

THERE is one lawsuit in America almost as old as the English possession of the country, and it concerns no less valuable property than a good slice of the city of New York itself. This is the claim concerning the farm of Anneke Jans, the widow of one of the earliest Dutch settlers who deeded the city of New Amsterdam and this mortal life in 1637 or 1638, and whose spouse afterwards married Domino Bogardus. The farm was afterwards merged into the King's Farm owned by Trinity Church, and the first trial as between the corporation and the heirs of Anneke Jans took place some years before the war. The case is not settled yet, and that veteran guardian of the interests of New York, Mr. James W. Gerard, tells the story of the farm and of the suit in the forth-coming May Harper's, with the help of a number of illustrations.

APROPOS of the decision of the supreme court regarding the ante-mortem probate of wills, the Free Press says: The decision of the supreme court in respect to ante-mortem probate of wills not only sets aside the existing law on the subject, but seems to preclude the possibility of passing any law which will reach the purpose sought to be effected. This is unfortunate; for the purpose of the law is certainly an excellent one. It was designed to prevent, as far as possible, those unseemly contests which periodically arise in the courts over the sanity of deceased persons. It does not prevent them entirely as if some legal means might be devised of doing this. In the court of common sense the best possible time for determining whether a man is sane when he makes his will is during his lifetime, when those who are to pass upon his sanity can be confronted with him, and when he can meet all objections or suspicions of insanity. But if the courts hold the common sense method legally and constitutionally impracticable, the idea must be abandoned. As a very ghoul boy once said of his mother: "When the courts say a thing is so, it's so whether it's so or not."

A bell boy with nearly a dollar in him is being mined by physicians in Portland, where he is employed engineer in a hotel. He was running upstairs with 76 cents in his mouth, when, suddenly stopping for something, he gulped the entire amount—two 20 cent pieces, two dimes, and the rest in pennies. Strange to say there has been no change in his internal arrangements since.

The Board of Health of Brooklyn has recently examined a sample of wallpaper which contained a dangerous amount of arsenic. The paper had a green ground. The examining chemist cites a large number of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of wall paper possessing arsenical properties.

The Minister of Education in England has recently made report that the attendance at the public schools has, within a few years, risen from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000, and that a result has been a very considerable diminution in juvenile crime. In this statement he is confirmed by the London police.

Etiquette prohibits South American ladies from going shopping without escorts.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

For Michigan Soldiers.

Lansing Correspondent Detroit paper.

About two weeks ago the legislative G. A. R. post held a meeting, and members of the Northwood bills for establishing a Michigan soldiers' home, and the Sellers' bill for the equalization of state bounty. A strong feeling in favor of passing both bills was manifested, and a committee composed of Representatives Sellers, Bates and Crosser, was appointed by President Holman to ascertain the probable aggregate of the amount of money required to be appropriated. From the reports received they found the amount of money required to be less than $3,000,000, which is some $6,000,000 less than was at first supposed necessary by the adjutant general of the state. The bill, as amended by Mr. Sellers, will provide that soldiers who enlisted in 1861 will receive their equalized bounty in 1886; those who enlisted in 1862 will receive their bounty in 1887; and so on. At present the bill stands a good chance of passing both houses of the legislature. The calculation is based at $100 to all. The following figures show the number of soldiers and also the amount of money which will be required to fulfill the purpose of the bill: The estimated number at 1,907, would receive $100 each, or $1,399,700.

Total enlistments previous to May 14, 1865	83,370
Less re-enlistment credited	5,545
Total enlistments	77,725
No. soldiers paid state bounty of $100	5,832
	71,893
Killed and died in hospital	13,500
Killed for three months	1,000
State home guards	1,000
Forty per cent died since the war, one-half of whom would have no heirs	10,783
Ten per cent of enlisted men who did not serve six months	7,189
No. of men who receive $60	8,113, which is equivalent to one-half receiving $100	4,056
	57,996

Estimated total number to whom bounties would have to be paid | 13,997

In regard to the soldiers' home Mr. Crosser has been making assiduous inquiries into the subject, and has obtained some information which he will submit to the legislative post. Also a letter which he received a few days ago from Congressman B. M. Catcheon. The latter says that the veterans have often made the mistake of asking too much, and the last fell. In the 48th congress he had introduced a bill to provide for the establishment of a Michigan branch of the national soldiers' home. It was reported favorably, but the time was too limited to get it through. So the examination of the national soldiers' home by individual states of this kind should be under the charge of the general government, and not of the states. The managers of the national home had already examined the Dearborn property by Col. Brown, the inspector-general, and he reported that there was no reservation known as the "Dearborn reservation." They passed a resolution that it was the sentiment to establish a branch home in which can from its proximity to the branches at Dayton and Milwaukee. He hoped to observe this decision by act of con ress, but the effort would be somewhat hindered by the proposed establishment of a branch at Erie, Pa., where the state offers to donate grounds, building as per cost of the same, worth also, within four years, donated 640 acres and $80,000 in cash for a new home. If the state of Michigan should offer the same say $50,000, the government will be induced to locate a branch and erect the building.

Foul Murder in Jackson.

Jackson was thrown into a fever of excitement Friday, April 11, by the discovery of the body of a man in the upper of a barn near the Franklin house in that city. The skull was crushed in and everything indicated that a most foul murder had been committed. From marks on the remains it was evident that the crime had been committed some time ago, as the body was badly decomposed and appeared to have been frozen.

An investigation was at once instituted and it was learned that the body is that of Henry W. Allen, who left that city last fall on a ship, about seven miles east of Jackson, and who has been missing ever since. Mr. Louis Prosser, a resident of Jackson, says he is positive the body is that of Smith, and states he has known Allen and Smith well. Smith left him about the middle of December, went to Detroit, where he received a large sum of money for a farm belonging he liquidated a mortgage of about $800, and since that time he has not been seen. It is supposed he had about $700 left. The father of the dead man, Mr. David M. Smith lives near Stockton Lake, Ogden Tp., and is in charge of the Montrose shops there.

James Halstead, a former partner of Henry W. Smith, has been arrested by Sheriff Fuller on a charge of complicity in the foul murder of Smith. Several people about the barn say Halstead's actions for the last two days have been suspicious, and that he did not allow parties to hitch a horse in the stall where the dead man lay, compelling them go by that stall to another one farther down the barn.

TO PRISON FOR LIFE.

The man Halsted, arrested for the murder of Smith, made a confession Monday night, the 13th, of the awful deed, which shows that he was quietly arraigned in court the next morning, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to prison for life.

Halsted also implicated in his confession the man who he ran the farm for, in connection with himself, and says the murder was done out on the Moffatt farm in Summit, about January 20. Halsted says that he induced Smith out there to settle up some business matters, and then killed him because they (he and Halstead) was hitching the horse. The murder was done by the other man while he was in the house, and they then hid the body in the hay until a little time ago, when it was brought down and put into the Franklin house barn. He says they did it for money, but also says that the other man struck the blow. He says, as near as he says, was his accomplice, is in jail and says he is innocent.

Mrs. Halstead interrogated Halstead smoked a cigar and still held it in his hand when he heard his wife sob and entered the room to be taken to the prison at Jackson. Just what light he didn't strike the blow, or didn't see the first one struck.

The officers are inclined to believe that Halstead's story about an accomplice is a fabrication to help his own case. The officers found the suspenders out in the shed where the body lay in the hay, and when they were brought Halstead wasn't among the crowd.

GENERAL STATE ITEMS

There are about 725 prisoners in Jackson prison.

East Saginaw is to be bonded for $70,000 for a new water main.

Mr. Hilsher of Grand Rapids is going to see the Pope at Rome.

A paint mine has been discovered near Gagetown, Tuscola county.

A new $50,000 electric battery will be held in Coldwater, Wednesday, May 20.

A Grand Rapids furniture company factory a $50,000 outfit for a hotel in Tampa, Florida.

Si Clair boasts a 13-year old boy who can shave a table in three and three-quarter minutes on edges.

Frank Chappell of Buchanan, aged 16, committed suicide by hanging; no reason is known for the act.

The flood caused by the rising water in the Detroit river has resulted in serious damage to property in Fort Huron.

Orland H. Goodwin, county clerk of Kent county, died very suddenly at the breakfast table a few mornings since.

The spring fair of the Central Michigan Agricultural Society will be held at Lansing from June 9 to 12 inclusive.

Prof. Malouth, of the Normal school will deliver a course of lectures to the agricultural college with President Willits.

A stranger attempted to board a train at Ionia's logging road near Rodney, fell underneath the wheels and was killed.

Dr. C. Keon of Camden, this week shot three imported English owls which measured 7ft. 3 in. from tip to tip of wing.

Robert A. Griffin, an old resident and lumberman of Big Rapids, was killed by falling in a lumber camp about six miles from Big Rapids.

Alfred A. & Co.'s steam sawmill burned at Shelton, Muskegon county, April 12. Loss about $40,000; insured for $20,000; supposed incendiary.

Rev. Jas. K. Barclay, pastor of Hillsdale Presbyterian church and a talented man, has been appointed state secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

Lester Mead of Morgan, Barry county, had begun to wear his League uniform, but his whiskers, and won't shave till Cleveland gets out of office.

Grand Rapids will not be bonded for the purpose of raising money with which to erect a market house in that town. So said one at the late election.

The ladies of the Oscoe library association offer a prize to the boy or girl who carefully reads the most history or biography in a certain time.

While an escaped convict from Stanton in Charlotte Mrs. May Humphrey dropped dead at the Hudson House, Lansing, where she had worked for many years.

C. E. Galligan of Paw Paw wants the address of the widow of Charles Hopkins, late of the Second United States Infantry. A pension awaits her.

A colored man [Charles Scott of Big Rapids, fell from the top of a barn 40 feet while sitting astride, and cut open his side, dying from internal hemorrhage.

George Hopkins, living three miles east of Pontiac, died April 13, of paralysis. He reached near that city 43 years, and was well known and highly respected.

N. E. Cooper, arrested at Grosse Pointe and taken to Bay City to answer to a charge of counterfeiting, has implicated others, and will be taken to Pontiac anyhow.

The annual sheep shearing festival of the Shiawassee county sheep breeders' and sheep breeders' association will be held at Vernon on the fairgrounds April 21 1885.

Benjamin McGilpin, Treasurer of Holmes Township, charged with the embezzlement of about $1,000 of township money, has been bound over to the circuit court for trial.

Edward Thompson, aged 22 years, deputy postmaster at Hillsdale, a young man respected by the entire community, died on the 13th inst., after a brief illness.

Perry Peer of Kalamazoo has a dog that dives into the water and catches fish. This she has frequently accomplished. A few days since she caught a pickerel that weighed 3 lbs.

Michael Brennan, an East Saginaw lawyer, while attempting to board a train at Vassar fell under the cars, and in such a way that his foot was terribly crushed and mangled.

The body of an unknown man was found among the driftwood in Grand river about two miles east of Saranac the other evening. There was nothing about his person to identify him

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Munson of Fowlerville, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary of their marriage. In Mrs. Munson's family there have been five golden weddings.

The Wells-Sacre mercantile company, a corporation with $200,000 capital stock, has been organized in Bay City to carry on a wholesale grocery, grain and lumbermen's supply business.

Dennis Hull, a well known engine driver of the Central and the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroads, died at Kalamazoo recently, the result of the removal of a tumor from his neck a month ago.

Secretary of State Conant has issued a circular to the supervisors and assessors of the state calling attention to the act providing for the compilation of statistics of births, marriages and deaths.

T. A. Wilson will take Hon. M. V. Montgomery's place as prosecuting attorney, the bomb in his trial for perjury, which is to take place at Hillsdale a change of venue having been granted.

The contract for building the city hall at Grand Rapids, after plans furnished by E. Van Leyen of Detroit, has been awarded by W. D. Richardson of Springfield, Ill., the contract price being $180,000.

Egg shipping is a new feature. The Grand Rapids leader says an egg is on exhibition in that city which measures three feet in length and two and a half in circumference, and weighs five and a quarter pounds.

Mrs. Anna R. Perry is the complainant in the United States circuit court against the estate of Horace J. Perrin of Marshall, to foreclose a mortgage for $5,000 held by Perrin, to whom she was at one time engaged.

Lands aggregating 3,000 acres in Isoco county, Iowa, owned by Franklin, Lenawee county, died suddenly in the office of Dr. R. B. House in Tecumseh a few days since. He was there with a sick child and daughter and was in previous good health.

An attache of a Grand Rapids roller rink has eloped with a fourteen year old girl. He offered to take her to Chicago and marry her there. The lady's father has issued a writ against the skater for a wife and family.

Detectives on the Crouch case, who are believed to have intimidated witnesses, at the late trial will soon be brought to face the music. Detective Bagley of Detroit and O'Neil is maturing a plan with this end in view.

According to the report of the treasurer of the Asbury centenary fund of Albion college, it now amounts to $180,000, of which $150,000 is pledged. Of this $100,000 is from the City. The association hopes to make the fund $500,000.

Dr. R. R. Long of Ionia has received the appointment of medical superintendent of the new asylum for insane criminals in Ionia. The doctor is a specialist in such affairs, and his appointment is given universal satisfaction.

Geo. C. Kimball of Grand Rapids has been allowed a claim of $11,000 against the estate of the late Hon. Thayer of Boston who had large lumber interests in Michigan, the claim being for services rendered as manager of the estate.

Robert Graham, a well-known farmer north of Brighton in Hartford township, committed suicide by cutting his throat. He first killed his wife and cut down before life was extinct. He lived till evening in an unconscious state, but died at last. It is thought he was deranged.

Willard M. McConnell, pioneer and prominent resident of Pontiac, died recently of cancer of the stomach. Deceased had resided in Pontiac and vicinity about 50 years. He was aged 72 years, prominent in the affairs of national bank, and one of the trustees of the Pontiac cemetery.

The nude body of an unknown man was found in a stall of the barn back of the Franklin house in Jackson, on the 13th inst. The body was partially eaten by vermin, and all surroundings point to a foul murder. The body had the appearance of having been there many days.

The Senate has passed the bill providing for the warning of railroad trains at grade on the public highways. This is the bill upon which there was extended discussion in committee of the whole. It was greatly amended, providing its passage, by making it apply to only railroads in cities.

Fire originated in M. T. Thomas & Co's bakery in Stanton on the 7th inst. probably from a hand stove, and communicated to the construction of a block of nine business buildings. The aggregate loss will approximate $12,000. The block is owned by Dr. Davis and leaves only one wooden block in the city.

David A. Davis, who has been superintending the erection of the new Catholic church in Flint, represented himself to be a single man and succeeded in winning the hand and heart of Miss Mary Brennan, a respectable young lady of that city. It now transpires that Davis has a wife and child in Detroit.

The first fatal accident in the history of the Detroit Belt line railroad occurred Saturday evening April 11. Henry J. Joey, a one year man from Fort Smith, Ark., was walking along the track when he was struck by a mamma's small iron rod struck the fly wheel and was thrown into his lung. He died the next morning.

Marvin R. Mills, administrator of the estate of Lenia M. DeGra, killed by the cars at Grand Rapids, brought a chancery suit against the D. G. H. & M. railroad, claiming damages in the sum of $5,000. The train was running at the rate of 30 miles per hour through the city at the time the accident occurred.

The other evening, [illegible] avigno of Marguette, reached their home from neighbor's and found the house on fire. Mrs. Covington, thinking that her two children were in bed, made several efforts to enter the burning building, resulting severely injuring. The children had escaped before parents' return.

While Capt. McGregor was fast in the ice off Grand Haven on the steamer Wisconsin on Wednesday last, the ice rendered so slippery that he could not advance or retreat. When he got ashore he telegraphed to his wife: "I arrived safely this morning, all well." In answer he received a telegram: "Glad to hear it. Come to breakfast."

During the past year the Detroit, Lansing, & Northern road hauled 517,187 tons of freight and carried 623,695 passengers. The total of $230,465 was paid in dividends. The road operates 209.37 miles. The gross earnings of the year were $1,324,351. The expenses of $367,859 93 from the year previous. Its net earnings were $956,491 93, $73,785.60.

FIRST BATTLE FOUGHT

Russians and Natives on the Afghan Frontier Meet in Battle—500 Natives Killed.

Miscellaneous Foreign News.

The Central Asiatican difficulty has been settled.

M. Brisson is the premier of the new French ministry.

Reported that France and China have agreed upon terms of an armistice.

There was an earthquake, April 12, in Andalusia. No damage but a big scare resulted.

Lord Mahdi has been severely defeated by El Obeid. He will not stand. Dongola for three months.

Both England and Russia are actively at work collecting navy and military stations in readiness for war.

Members of the British army reserve in Canada have been notified to hold themselves in readiness to return to England.

Reported that Gen. Wolseley has been ordered to assume command of the army now in the Soudan for service elsewhere.

A Paris dispatch of the 13th says: Orders have been issued to recall from the Admiral Courbet and Gen. De L'Isle on the 10th inst.

Russian arsenals are being worked to their utmost capacity, and preparations are being pushed to the frontier with all possible speed.

Numbers of Irish organizations are seeking an alliance with the Russian government by which they propose to foment a rising in Ireland while England is busy with Russia.

The first battle of the Afghan frontier fight was fought on the 30th ult., between Russians and natives. Five hundred natives were routed, and 500 killed. The news of the fight has created much excitement in England and an immediate explanation is demanded of Russia.

The official messenger of St. Petersburg publishes the following telegram from Komaroff, dated April 1, giving the official account of the battle of the 30th ult., on the 25th of March our detachment approached Ilashkapr. When near the bridge we saw an entrenchment occupied by Afghans. In order to avoid a conflict I stationed my troops in front of the enemy's forces over three miles from the Afghan position. Negotiations with Capt. Yate (a member of Sir Peter Lumsden's force) commenced at 9 o'clock. When the Afghans became convinced that the Russians were not attacking them they daily drew nearer to our camp. On the 27th they dispatched against a company of ours a mounted party of 200 men, accompanied with a gun and some cavalry. The next day their audacity and arrogance increasing, they opened fire with a gun and rifles upon pickets on the left flank of our camp, made entrenchments and placed a cavalry post in rear of our line and a picket within 400 paces of our forts.

INDIAN MASSACRE.

Fourteen Persons Killed by Indians at Frog Lake.

Other News From the Northwest.

Several large bands of American Indians have left Montana and gone on the war path and are now on the Canadian side, having rapidly northward to join the Canadians Indians. Gen. Gaigher, of Manitoba, is expected to Prince Albert to join Gen. Middleton's forces. The information is confirmed by a dispatch from Fort Assiniboine, in the north of the international boundary, near which the American Indians now are. Beyond a doubt, says the dispatch, the Crees, Assiniboines, Big Pigeons and Blood Indians have crossed the boundary in high and warlike humor. The Sauth Pigeons and Bloods have formed an alliance. Riel sent his Indians somethin time ago, and they are now in the presence of tobacco, which were accepted, and the Indians have pledged themselves to support Riel, who has laid a deep scheme by which the Mik River Indians will play an important part.

A [illegible] from Winnipeg of the 10th says: Word has just been received from headquarters of the Saskatchewan field forces at Frog Lake, northwest of Fort Pitt on the Saskatchewan river, with the names of the victims: T. T. Quinn, Indian agent; John Delaney, farm instructor; Gowanlock and wife, Payne and wife, Wilson, Williscraft, Gerchand, priests, and two other men whose names are not learned. Mrs. Ganey is the only one left to tell the story. Mrs. Quinn of Cameron, the Hudson Bay company factor at Fort Pitt, is a brother of the Indian agent, who escaped. The wire between Battleford and Clarke's crossing is apparently cut, as Calgary cannot get it. The fighting and a circuit was established for a short time, allowing the message to come through. It is said the Indians are in Canadian territory. For the safety of settlers on the Swamp lands Adjourned.

CONDENSED NEWS.

The reported death of President Barrios has been contradicted.

Heavy rains was visited by a cyclone April 1st. Over $50,000 damage was done.

Richard Grant White, one of America's most charming and versatile writers, is dead.

The government of North Carolina has been appointed assistant commissioner of patents.

Governors of the Mexican war, or their established heirs are to be given three months extra pay.

Gen. Swaim has asked for a review of his case. The Secretary of War has promised a re-hearing soon.

The failure of the Exchange National bank of Norfolk, Va., results in a loss to depositors of over $3,000,000.

Postmaster General has removed the postmasters at Rome, N. Y., and designated James B. Corcoran to act in his steady.

The Mississippi river has resumed low practice in New York, and has returned to his old home on Lexington avenue.

The failure of the Union Trust Company of Canada during March were $9,000,000, about $3 000,000 more than average of March in previous years.

Between 3,000 to 4,000 school children gladdened the White house grounds on Monday last, President Cleveland shook hands with hundreds of them.

Representative Shaw, a Democrat member of the Tennessee legislature, was assaulted suddenly in Springfield, April 19. He's death causes another delay in the senatorial election.

It is the general opinion among officers on duty at the navy department that the sunrises which were recently sent from New York to have Aspinwall on their return home within the week.

Gen. Grant's Washington tobacconist ascribes his throat trouble to his habit of keeping a lighted cigar in his mouth and never expectorating. He claims that the popular idea that Grant smoked many cigars is a fallacy.

Edward Lambert, 23 years old, called at the home of his mother in-law, Mrs. Ann A. Mulligan, 136 South Desplaines street, Chicago, to see his wife, from whom he has been estranged. He shot and killed Mrs. Mulligan and also shot and dangerously wounded his wife. He then killed himself. Republican members of the Tennessee legislature are in a state of siege at the Maxwell house, Nashville, Tenn. They are all locked in a room, at the door of which are a number of officers of the house, ready to arrest them as soon as they venture out. They stayed away from the sessions to prevent the passage of contested measure.

While a heavy storm was passing over Washington a few days since the Washington monument was struck three times by lightning without causing the least damage. Col. Casey examined the aluminum tip with a field glass, and found it as bright as new and bright as when it was placed on the summit some months since.

An attempt is being made to collect quite a bankwood for boxwood, and if successful the cost of skates will be reduced one-half.

A skating rink is being constructed at Honolulu. Sandwich Islands.

AFTER BOADLEY.

Gov. Bradley of Ohio received a box from Cincinnati on the 10th inst. Upon being opened was found to contain an infernal machine loaded with dynamite, supposed to have been sent by the same man who sent the box containing a string which was so adjusted that a person pulling it in an explosion would have followed and destroyed the house's death.

THROUGH A BRIDGE.

The Iron bridge over Indian creek, eight miles east of Connellsville, Pa., on the Pittsburgh & Connellsville railroad, fell April 10, precipitating an east-bound coke train of 25 cars into the water, twenty-five lives were lost, and the bridge was completely demolished and two brakes were killed. Engineer Bell and Benjamin Fuller, respectively conductor and brakeman, were killed. The rest of the crew escaped unhurt.

Mr. Maddi has been severely attacked by El Obeid. He will not stand. Dongola for three months.

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Postmaster General has removed the postmasters at Rome, N. Y., and designated James B. Corcoran to act in his steady.

The Mississippi river has resumed low practice in New York, and has returned to his old home on Lexington avenue.

The failure of the Union Trust Company of Canada during March were $9,000,000, about $3 000,000 more than average of March in previous years.

Between 3,000 to 4,000 school children gladdened the White house grounds on Monday last, President Cleveland shook hands with hundreds of them.

Representative Shaw, a Democrat member of the Tennessee legislature, was assaulted suddenly in Springfield, April 19. He's death causes another delay in the senatorial election.

It is the general opinion among officers on duty at the navy department that the sunrises which were recently sent from New York to have Aspinwall on their return home within the week.

Gen. Grant's Washington tobacconist ascribes his throat trouble to his habit of keeping a lighted cigar in his mouth and never expectorating. He claims that the popular idea that Grant smoked many cigars is a fallacy.

Edward Lambert, 23 years old, called at the home of his mother in-law, Mrs. Ann A. Mulligan, 136 South Desplaines street, Chicago, to see his wife, from whom he has been estranged. He shot and killed Mrs. Mulligan and also shot and dangerously wounded his wife. He then killed himself. Republican members of the Tennessee legislature are in a state of siege at the Maxwell house, Nashville, Tenn. They are all locked in a room, at the door of which are a number of officers of the house, ready to arrest them as soon as they venture out. They stayed away from the sessions to prevent the passage of contested measure.

While a heavy storm was passing over Washington a few days since the Washington monument was struck three times by lightning without causing the least damage. Col. Casey examined the aluminum tip with a field glass, and found it as bright as new and bright as when it was placed on the summit some months since.

An attempt is being made to collect quite a bankwood for boxwood, and if successful the cost of skates will be reduced one-half.

A skating rink is being constructed at Honolulu. Sandwich Islands.

The Wind's Direction.

That the changing of the direction of the wind is due to the shifting of situations of the water and land on the earth is substantially proved by the fact that in certain regions of the earth's surface where the situations of the land, water and dead-reckoning heat and cold do not alter the direction in which they lie to each other, the wind does not change, but always blows in the same direction from one day to another, and all the year round. This occurs in the great open regions of the ocean, where there is no land to get heated by the sunshine of the day and to get cool by the radiation of heat at night. In those spaces for a vast breadth of many hundred miles the sun shines down day after day upon the surface of the sea, traversing the water most along the mid-ocean track which lies most immediately beneath its burning rays as it passes across from east to west. This midway track of the strongest sunshine crosses the wide ocean as a belt or zone that spreads some way to either side of the equator. The wreck across this midway track the cooler and heavier air on either hand drifts in from the southern and the northern seas, and then rises up, as it becomes heated by the sun, where the two currents meet. In both the northern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. These steady and unchanging ocean winds are called the trade winds, on account of the great service they render to the carrying merchandise across those portions of the sea. In sailing from England to the Cape of Good Hope, or across the entire length of the Atlantic Ocean, ships, before they reach the equator, have to pass over a broad space, where strong winds are always blowing steadily from the northeast. That is the region of the northeast trades. Then they traverse a space near to the equator itself, where the northeast wind ceases to blow, and where the air is warm and still—calm, and they afterwards come to a region to the south of the equator, where strong winds are continually blowing from the southeast. That is known as the region of the southeast trades —*Cassell's Magazine.*

Prisoners In the East.

In civilized warfare the taking of prisoners is the giving of a pledge of honor. When quarter is offered and accepted [illegible] the life is considered sacred. A mutual contract is established. The captive promises not to take up arms again till the end of the war; the captor has the option of time to respect his prisoner's personal safety. The contingent may be rigorous, the treatment hard, but the limitation which the conqueror undertakes are punctually fulfilled. Instances are on record where captives have lived in defence of their prisoners. This spirit of chivalry is common to all valiant people, and in the east at times it has been carried to the length of self-immolation. Saracen Emirs held our crusading knights to ransom, and treated them always with honor. Even with such pompous consideration, such refinement of luxury, that the hostage must have often proved a very costly guest. When the Mahrattas slaughtered the prisoners of Indian chiefs have been dismissed to their homes. Again and again the most magnificent and princely generosity toward an enemy taken in battle has won unwilling clans over to the green banner and healed the scars of hereditary feuds. But these are the exceptions to the rule. For Oriental warfare is still savage in spirit, as western soldiers find to their cost. When Robert's guns burst upon the camp by Candahar, and Ayoob Khan turned to flee, the 92nd Highlanders, along the Arghandab, his men still found time to murder their prisoners. When Osman Digma's onslaught smashed up Baker's square before the Arabs paid no attention to the Egyptians' arms thrown down in token of submission, but continued their butchery to the last man. One after another garrisons have fallen into the mehdi's hands, and the news has come of dreadful massacres of the garrison. "No prisoners" seems to be the dreadful order of the false prophet's camp. We have heard of the cries of native sisters of charity whose lives were spared, and also of some native priests, the captives in each case being credited with the purest of mind to beg for life in order that they might live to see the mehdi's millenium. Rumor also states that one of the other Europeans are living in the prophet's camp, the one acting as a doctor, the other as a mere prisoner. Be this how-ever, has been the immediate fate of all but these few, whom accident rather than design may be supposed to have spared.—*London Telegraph.*

The Stability of the Washington Monument.

Col. Casey, the engineer, says: "I do not suppose it is possible for man to make anything that will endure forever. There is no substance in nature, even if we could command it, that will withstand the brush and the marble and granite of which that shaft is composed are no exception to the rule. I believe it will stand as long as the earth and the earth's crust. How many hundreds or thousands of years it will take the frost and storm to destroy it I am not prepared to say. In practice, that great mass of stone, it would be idle even to conjecture. It will be so far in the future that I do not think any one can prepare for it and the disintegrating agencies on it. Yet I believe that if the world and this world-famous shaft are left to the work of Washington will outlive the monument. That cannot be forgotten while we exist as a people, and the people must sometime yield to decay. The effects of time are already discernible on the old section of the shaft, built thirty-five years ago. It is not a change, but you can plainly see it here and there on the external surface. It only enables the eye to distinguish the result of the beating and scorching of the elements through centuries of time. Of course, no engineering skill can provide against the effects of earthquakes or other extraordinary convulsions of nature, but I am absolute in the belief that the water must sleep and foundation on which the column stands will be firm and enduring, and that years will only make more perfect its stability. — *Correspondence Cleveland Herald.*

A young gentleman of Adairsville made the mistake of proposing to his sweetheart by postal card. The card was read by the entire household for whom it was intended. A big social sensation is the consequence.—*Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.*

St. Paul, Minn., boasts of a citizen named Joseph Richardson, but known to everybody as "Uncle Joe," who never wore an overcoat or a suit of clothes worth more than $12, yet he is the possessor of $6,000,000.

Birmingham, England, has the greatest button trade of any city in the world.