Birmingham Eccentric.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for publication should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful about giving names and dates. In have the letters and figures plain and distinct. Proper names are often difficult to decipher and one of the careless manner in which they are written.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, Pubs.

BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN.

AROUND A GREAT STATE.

An Old Landmark Gone.

Another ancient landmark of Detroit, of Michigan, indeed of American history, has reached the end of its course. The Pontiac tree is dead. For some years its virility has been waning, and now the great and most interesting relic of the forest primeval and survivor of the Bloody Run massacre was dying. Last year it was noticed that the end was approaching, and this year all life has just run out altogether. The Pontiac tree was one of the historic trees of America. Its antiquity was discovered early in its life. Its interest, however, came from the fact that it was a surviving witness of one of the most melancholy events of the history of Michigan. It was an old white oak, and stood a lone, weather-beaten monarch of the forest. The following account of the event that gave the old tree its celebrity appeared in Harper's Magazine in May, 1862, in an illustrated sketch of the leading Indian chieftain:

"In July, 1763 Pontiac was encamped behind a swamp and a thick and half-cleared wood, near Detroit. Capt. Dalzell, who had arranged with Pontiac in North-East Bay for a concerted attack, reinforcements at the close of the month and prepared to carry out the plan of battle immediately. A perfidious Canadian informed Pontiac and he made ready for the attack.

"At little past midnight Dalzell marched to Parent's creek. The darkness was intense; a thousand eager eyes watched his approach. Five hundred stocky warriors were lurking near the bridge, concealed in the ravine through which Parent's creek flowed. Dalzell's advance was just crossing the bridge when Pontiac's signal was given. The battle-story on the old Indian recorded the presence of a lady who, when the first time the enemy was seen, ran down the ravine through the cut and was shot down as suddenly disappeared after firing, dealt a blow with a tomahawk. Pontiac's brother, Capt. Dalzell, while he was attempting to bear off a wounded sergeant. The detachment finally reached the fort, with the loss of their number in killed and wounded. Most of the slain fell in the ravine. Parent's creek has ever since been called, from that circumstance, Bloody Run. The battle was fought nearer the river than Jefferson avenue, and the huge tree, stationed in the ravine, and scarred by the bullets of that time, stood in a thicket in a ravine between the assailants and the assailed.

There are no surviving landmarks that are to be compared with the old tree in historical interest, except the old Ste. Anne's church, but that, which is itself soon to follow, full of years and crowded with tender memories.

Alger Vetoes It.

Gov. Alger last week vetoed the Eaton prison labor bill, and sends his objections to the legislature and people through the columns of a Detroit paper, the legislature having adjourned. He writes from Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and says:

The measure was recommended in my first message to the legislature, but, I must frankly confess, without the time, but, I must frankly portant a measure deserves, I should have waited in my recommendation, and have waited, not made until some practical substitute could be matured for the system of labor.

The bill provides for abolishing contract labor, but, in practice, it offers nothing in its place except to take the prisoners from the day and night, which amounts to military confinement, after the manner of the Russian, which they are laboring, and capital is furnished for a new business, and it is put in several operation.

Senator Berkey offered an amendment to the bill that it should not go into effect until voting on the work on state account, and Senator Jackson offered an amendment to the amendment to make the amount so to the latter of which the prisoners should be put, the experience of the state of New York would be an insufficient sum.

Both amendments were defeated, and there is no appropriation that can be made. The system of labor provided for in the bill is not for the present system now carried on in a limited way in our state prisons, and it is not a fair test of the system, which, I have no doubt, if fairly and carefully tried, would be a success.

It must be borne in mind that our prisons average over 1,200 inmates, an immense force, but for employment.

What, then, would we have were the bill to become a law? Prisoners would be put at work, time, with no capital with which to purchase material and the appliances necessary for carrying along the work, and the machinery, etc., and, in fact, building up an economic establishment, manufacture and sale of goods, from the commencement, with no, or, at most, practical experience in such matters.

It must also be remembered that the present contractors for their prisoners, in the mines and trade, none of which would be transferred to the prison establishment, if the system of labor provided for in the bill, are authorities that have been established for years, and have the capital and the appliances necessary for manufacture and their work is well and profitably carried on. They can produce goods that will compete in the market and dispose of the large and increasing amount of extra capital, must be furnished by the taxpayers of the state, and the market can be found, or sell at prices that will run private competitors out of labor.

The change, where made, must be necessarily be very gradual and of slow growth, and will then require the best of management, and the state to conduct it with any degree of success. Experience, in the management of our state prisons, upon whom the success or failure of the system depends, shows that it has changed every two years, and their successors would probably know nothing of the duties connected with such a large establishment.

No private business could be successfully conducted in this manner as every business establishment, and, as many know, if prices are sentenced for their terms at hard labor," and unless employed, as I have said before, must remain idle, and, in fact, lie by day and night, which is practically military confinement, and, in fact, is military rule. Many other equally terrible reasons for not precipitately this change without first providing the necessary capital and then having out and perfecting definite plans and suggested themselves to every business man, and one who gives the subject careful thought.

(Signed) A. T. ALGER.

After Hidden Gold.

The reigning sensation in Howard City has been the fact that a party was soon to start for New Orleans to examine a chest of gold, three and one-half millions of dollars which it was claimed was buried near there some 50 years ago by a band of pirates. The story is that Jean Laffite, a noted pirate of Spanish origin, had a band of pirates preying on the coast of the gulf of Mexico about the year 1815. His headquarters for business was at Barataria, a place about 40 miles below New Orleans. On this island Laffite had erected a brick house and here it was that the gold in question was said to have been brought for safekeeping. Things became too warm and risky for the pirate chief, and he thought it was decided to bury the gold and silver concealed in the house. Some time ago a gentleman corner of the brick house on this island and digging in many rods in the various directions, using the compass, found a chest with "signs and tokens" in after years correct, they claimed at the time, that it was buried at about four feet below the surface, this unlawfully accumulated wealth. The chest was about three and one-half million of dollars, composed equally of Spanish coin, doubloons with some English and American gold and silver. The weight of this specie was several tons, and it was placed in ships and shipped to Cuba, where it soon came to the pirates. They were driven from their haunts and all scattered by the exception of one man named Antonia. Laffite died soon after, and Antonia, three weeks before his death in the city of New Orleans, called to a man and a friend, Capt. Crabtree, then commanding a vessel in the Southern waters. Antonia related to Capt. Crabtree the entire details of the burying of the gold and every detail of the place where the place could be discovered. Within three weeks after this last man died, was dead, but not until Capt. Crabtree had had a sufficient time to think about the matter so as to be perfectly sure of every name and sign. Capt. Crabtree died in a foreign cruise immediately after Antonia's death and fully explained to your correspondent, a few days ago, his reasons for his not returning earlier to this hidden treasure. He married and had a large family and being in reduced circumstances has never seen the day that he could stand the expense of the trip. Capt. Crabtree at the present time lives twelve miles northeast of Howard City. He has been nearly blind for eighteen years, is a very old man in feeble health and constantly by an attendant. He has been urging several prominent business men in Howard City to advance money for the expense of the party to go there and finalize the expedition, but, thus far, no party of four, including Capt. Crabtree and his eldest son, William, started for New Orleans, where they as confidently believe they will find buried the one-half millions of money as that they will reach their destination. A number of citizens were at the train to see the party off, and opinions are evenly divided as to the success of the expedition.

Samson Causes a Sensation.

During the performance of Cole's circus in Jasper the other day, Samson, the famous master elephant, became infuriated, and unconsciously turned himself loose on the 9,000 people assembled under the canvas, tearing up the seats, smashing furniture, and making havoc generally. Women fainted, children screamed, boys climbed trees, and a general stampede was caused. Human life for a time, was seemingly at the mercy of the infuriated beast.

The enraged elephant, after clearing the spectators out from the canvas, made a break for the woods near by, and gored himself in an adjacent swamp. After much difficulty he was finally coaxed, with five bullets of lead, in his hide. Amid the panic numerous fights were broken, and property was lost and damaged. Great consternation on the show grounds and excitement throughout the city prevailed for several hours. Yet seems a miracle that no fatalities occurred.

Brief Freedom.

Charles W. Fonda has been discharged from the jail in Detroit, where he had been in custody on a charge of being a fugitive from justice, leaving the state in Constantine, on the old charge, the warrant being issued at the instance of the Constantine jail, he is now in jail at Constantine. Fonda's discharge was on the ground that he was not a fugitive from justice, informal and not on indictment by a grand jury.

C. H. C. Ryndl, the Adrian postal clerk who was released from the house of correction at Detroit, has been arrested, and is now held for trial in the sum of $1,000.

His Last Circus.

Thomas McCann of Columbiaville, attended the circus in Lapeer. He started for his home in the evening and was found in an unknowable hell from the train, was run over and his body so completely fell apart, did before assistance could reach him. He had a family.

MINOR STATE HAPPENINGS.

There are now 736 prisoners in Jackson.

Care is taken to prevent a fire at Saginaw.

A huckleberry canning institution is talked of in Roscommon.

Calhoun county's saw mills, 10 single and five planing mills.

The jury in the Dibbell shooting case at Howell failed to agree.

Mabley, the Detroit clothier, died at his home in that city, of heart disease, June 30.

Edward Burns, of Ann Arbor, fell from a building train near Baldwin and was killed.

Many thousand a ton of land in the Upper Peninsula are for sale, and the Marquette Mansion beasts of the largest oak block in the world. Some of the barrels are in.

Work has begun in earnest on the Ionia county court house, to be erected at Big Rapids.

Some Jackson capitalists are about organizing for the manufacture of the Esterbrook pen.

The Edison company of Detroit will furnish lights for the northern asylum for the insane.

A teacher's institute will be held in Grand Rapids on August 4. Over 200 teachers will be present.

Francis B. Eaton has been appointed deputy commissioner of labor with headquarters in Detroit.

Gen. Logan will not be able to attend the Bell Harbor camp meeting, August 17-21.

The Saginaw lumber company's mill at Kalkaska, was burned a few days since entailing a loss of $7,000.

Mrs. N. Wilson, aged about 75 years, died at the Central hotel in Grand Rapids by taking morphine.

In Ionia county, wheat, oats, barley and buckwheat are looking well, but corn is much damaged by the cutworm.

The stockholders of the Marquette, Houghton & Ontonagon railroad will meet at Marquette on the 15th of August.

James Schermerhorn son of the late editor of the Hillsdale Gazette, is insane, the mental and physical examination of Dr. Kiernan.

The West Michigan furniture Co. of Grand Rapids, has filed its articles of incorporation with $20,000 subscribed and articles filed.

Col. Stewart Ross, a prominent lumbleman of Grand Rapids, died at Saginaw, July 30. Deceased has been taken from his home.

Ben Wise Young, aged 19, living near Kalamazoo, went out in a canoe on Lake Cornelia, and ended by suicide with strychnine.

Lieutenant Governor Jeremiah Dickinson of Marquette, has been appointed and received a complete new outfit, consisting of uniforms, guns and equipments, from the state.

Gen. Ed. Pierce, of Detroit, the famous journalist, has been appointed librarian of the congressional library at Washington. Salary $1,800 yearly.

Vicksburg spiritualists will hold a camp meeting in Prairie Ronde, on the 9th of August, beginning August 5 and ending September 7.

Gotlieb Wirsing, a farmer west of Saginaw, is out $500 by the burning of his barn and its contents by lightning during a thunder storm.

The Devo coal mine, east of Jackson, junction, has been sold to Detroit parties who contractors will soon be lifting 300 tons of coal per day.

Some of the farmers of Lenawee, Jackson county, have planted their corn three times this summer, and are sure of its having been eaten by grubs.

A Frenchman, who says he is a relative of Napoleon, died in the county jail at Ann Arbor, among the inmates of the Saginaw county poorhouse.

The body washed ashore near Forest, Ont. was that of Hank Farrington, the Iowa county boy who was drowned in the river Thames, Canadian side.

J. E. Sweet, a Port Huron man, has returned home to New York from Panama with the only relic caused of the Isthmian war safely packed in his trunks.

Ex President Dorgan of Hillsdale, neglected to make a report of the services performed during his administration, and he has to pay the $3 costs for the dereliction.

The state works in Ionia, is closing in ended, most of the men accepting the contractor's figures of $1.30 per day for his house work, with no stint, or space work at five cents per day.

In the case of Eugene Sa sury, charged with murder in Ionia county, the jury in Ionia county, the jury after being out all day brought in a verdict of guilty of manslaughter.

A small white child, supposed to be a foundling, was found in a cornfield in Ionia county. It begins in the woods, about half a mile from the place, and by the most careful search that it can be found.

Charles E. St. John of Hillsdale, a graduate of the normal in Ann Arbor, has resigned the chair of education assistant professor of chemistry in the school of mines at Columbia.

The jury in the case of Margaret Ryan vs. J. Brown, the Reed City saloon keeper, who sold liquor to Ryan's husband, which led to his death, brought in a verdict of $1,000 in her favor.

C. H. C. Ryndl, the postal clerk who was released from the Detroit house of correction on a writ of habeas corpus, was arrested on a charge of being a fugitive from justice, and is now held for trial in the sum of $1,000.

ANGRY AFGHANS.

STARTLING DEVELOPMENT IN THE AFGHAN-RUSSIO AFFAIR.

Minor Foreign News.

It is reported from Cabul that Ia Khan, supported by the Russians, has risen against Abdullah Khan. He marched upon Khana and seized the treasure there, valued at 1,000,000 rupees, belonging to the Ameer of Afghanistan. The political difficulties of Khafgaria are increasing, and military movements of troops are going northwards.

Abdullah Khan is the governor of Kundus, the extreme northern province of Afghanistan. The town of Khana-Bad is situated about 60 miles south of the river Oxus, which river separates it from the Russian protected state of Bokhara. Khana-Bad was the headquarters of the present ameer of Afghanistan before he was summoned to the throne and thereat took place the negotiations between the ameer and British officers.

French troops are fighting, by the score daily in Tonquin.

An explosion occurred in a powder mill near Lucca, Italy, resulting in the death of 3 firemen.

The mill report state that over 300 persons were killed by the recent earthquakes in the province of Ischia.

The seals of office were formally transferred from Gladstone to Salisbury the day following a division of the ministerial forces.

Cholera continues its dreadful ravages in the Spanish provinces. Hundreds are dying daily, and the end of the plague is not yet.

The Russian government has issued an order forbidding the newspapers to make any reference to the sale of Russian Stocks in Afghan affairs.

The Czar, who recently passed through a town in Asiatic Russia on the Black sea, says that many gun factories are in operation there, and that Russia is well prepared for war.

Charles Wayne Adams and Miss Millicent Coleridge, daughter of the lord chief justice of England, were married recently. Lord Coleridge was absent from the ceremony, the wedding, but refused.

The marriage of Salisbury has created great sympathy with his views, regarding the with Russia. Of the Czar's fleet, it is thought that the government is unable, for various reasons, to continue the expedition.

THE COUNTRY AT LARGE

THE SENTINEL.

James D. Fitz Gerald, editor of the Bank of New York, has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment for the crime of embezzlement of the full extent of the law in such cases, regarded as just. Fitz has been six years old. He good conduct for which he recommended will expire in six and one half years.

CONTRIBUTED TOPICS.

The dairy men of New York, are not satisfied with the final decision of the court of appeals on the butter substitute law. They state that "that case of the people vs. Arnold was not decided at all, but a bogus suit gotten up by the manufacturers and dealers against one of their own number and conducted in the interest of the trade, and a blended statement of facts, which did not exist in the case at all, was made and offered on the part of the people to counteract it."

SNOWSTORM IN OREGON.

In his annual address before the seventh executive session of the G. A. R., in Portland, Oregon, the commander-in-chief said that on March 31, less than 20,000 men were mustered in the organization, and that there was a cash balance on hand of $1,000 and with the special committee had been appointed to lay the matter properly before the Grand Army, before the proper Catholic authorities, and that arrangements had been received from Archbishop Gibbons and Bishop Ireland, that the order of the society prevent disgust Catholics from joining secret societies, and that the Catholic population in politics as an organization. San Francisco was selected as the place for holding the next annual encampment.

AFTER MARYLETTES.

That "marriage will out" has been strangely verified in Henry county, Virginia. Peter Gross, a colored man, has just been arrested for the murder of his wife, Rosa Pownill twenty years ago. The dead body of Rosa Pownill, a young and very popular young colored girl, was found in a secluded place in the county, and it was the point of the deadman. The circumstances surrounding the case seemed to point to suicide. This was the opinion of the coroner, and it remained until a few days ago, when a daughter of Gross, who had married and left the county, made a clean breast of the whole matter, and confessed the crime. The father sent the daughter away from home and had his son connected of horse stealing and was sentenced to the penitentiary. The dead return of the daughter after an exile of twenty years, and her confession of her mother's murder, has caused quite a sensation. Peter Gross will be tried for murder.

BABY TOILER FOR WINTER WHEAT.

Special crop reports from Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, the American Rural Home, Rochester, N. Y., gathered from independent local correspondents, show that the very best wheat prospects of the season, and the best prospects for winter wheat. The test twenty-six states of the Union, including, in fact, all states that were thought good for both spring and