Birmingham Eccentric

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BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

TIMELY TOPICS.

At the annual meeting of the Michigan sportsmen's association a petition was presented by the citizens of Grand Rapids asking the association to bring influence to bear on the legislature to secure the abolition of trap shooting and to put a bib on the game list. T. S. Cobb of Kalamazoo, suggested a change in the trout season, as he had caught trout in August which contained spawn. A letter was read from E. S. Lapeater, claiming that many deer are killed out of the season. The committee on laws regretted that the legislature had not passed the amendments to the game laws which had been put into it, especially the law creating a game warden. The changes needed include a deer law, and a law making the possession of game out of the season, in a fair case evidence of guilt. The committee took a hopeful view of the situation, owing to the determination among the people to protect game from wolves and home assassins. They favored a stamp the English sparrow nuisance and regret that the laws now in force do not apply to spearing fish in the spawning season, during April and May. The report closes with the suggestion to acquiesce in the antideer hounding act.

N. H. Fig Leaton, chief of the forestry division in the agricultural department in the annual report to the commissioner of Agriculture, says that the total area of forests in the country is 480,280,000 acres. The value of the woods exported last year was $30,253,924, a decrease of $9,000,491. The imports were valued at $12,609,062. He argues the necessity of protecting the waste and preventing unnecessary waste, which is the case in some of the states. He says the use of woods by railways for ties and other purposes make it an important question whether these companies should not plant trees along their roadways to supply their needs. Vast quantities of timber continue to be stolen from lands reserved by the United States, he says, and there is no reason to believe that persons not destitute of respectability are in collusion with the thieves. The review of the year he views as encouraging, the interests in forestry having increased throughout the country.

THE remarkable letter written by Lincoln to Grant just before the opening of the Wilderness campaign, closing with the words, "And now, with a brave army, and a just cause, may God sustain you," is in the possession of Geo Badeau, and has been reproduced in facsimile for the Forjatry Century, to accompany Gen. Grant's article, "Preparation for the Wilderness Campaign." Gen Badeau states that Gen. Grant was "always careless about his papers, and private or official, those were often thrust into his pockets, where they remained for months. In some such way Mr. Lincoln's beautiful God speed was mislaid. Gen. Grant had forgotten it entirely when, in 1866, I came across it in my researches for my history of his campaigns. He was so pleased at the discovery, or recovery, that he gave me the original letter at the time."

A well known Senator is quoted as saying that it is very probable that the Senate will conclude to shunton before certain of its committees the nomination for prominent Federal positions against whose characters serious charges have been filed. This will necessitate the summoning of a large number of witnesses from almost every part of the country, will lead to very long and costly extensive investigations over many months, Committees by calling upon nominees to answer charges, and those who have made them for additional information will simply complicate affairs by securing additional testimony pro and con, and the best plan will be to call together the accused and accusers, see all parties and take testimony from their lips, thereby consulting appearances as well as words.

The supreme court of Wisconsin has just decided a case which no doubt will interest the people of Iowa, Kansas, and other prohibition states. The agent of a Janesville brewing firm solicited and obtained orders for beer in the town of Stoughton, in which the sale of beer was prohibited. The agent, who forwarded the beer according to agreement, was prosecuted and found guilty of selling liquor in Stoughton, but the supreme bench of the state has reversed the finding of the lower court. It holds that when the beer was delivered to the railway company in Janesville the sale was complete, and hence no sale of liquor took place in Stoughton and that the sale by the agent was made in Janesville.

THE stereophagus in which repose the remains of Garfield, is one of the most novel and ingenious ideas in America, and is a marvel of beauty. At each of the four lower corners elegantly carved lions' feet serve as supports to the heavy frame and the sides are wrought in strong panels, which are also decorated with graceful carvings. On the lid is a plate with the inscription "Garfield," which is in bold relief, the background being an artistic combination of oaken leaves and flowers. It required a month's time for the engraver to make plate, and it is a beautiful study.

A good story is told of a Kentuckian who was fond of the whiskey and always drank liquor. He it was that said: "I never saw any man whisky, but I can tell a better, but all is good." One night, when he had taken a little too much, he was observed to take out one quart at a time and drink to a choice lady. Returning, he would take another out. When asked about this, he said: "Why, my husband is a drunkard, and ought I get half of my whisky myself. See?"

A convulsion of nature has lately caused several hundred feet upper of crystal on Electric mountain, in National park, Montana, to be thrown about in a romantic way. Portions of it have been appeared, while in other places great openings of an unknown depth appear.

By the wreck of a bank in Lancaster, Mass., Sewall y a widow lost her whole fortune—$50,000—whereupon an unknown person in Boston sent her a gift of $1,000 annually (very seasonably, as it put her interest on her loss) as long as she lived.

AROUND A FRIEND OF STATE.

A Detroit Pioneer Passes Away.

Hon. George C. Bates, a pioneer of Detroit, died in Denver, Col., on the 9th inst., of inflammation of the bowels. Mr. Bates was in his 7th year, but hale and well preserved. He was all his life a successful practicing lawyer, and did a large legal business up to the time he died, however, in comparatively poor circumstances.

George C. Bates was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., in 1812. He worked on a farm and attended common schools until his 18th year. He prepared for college in the Canandaigua Academy, and graduated from Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., August 4, 1831. He studied law in the office of John F. Spencer in New York for some time, arrived in Detroit May 18, 1833, and tried first entered the office of Ira M. Porter. May 8, 1836, he passed an all-day examination and was admitted to the bar. One of the examining committee was Hon. Daniel Goodwin, still living in Detroit. He practiced law in Detroit for several years. President W. H. Harrison appointed him district attorney for Michigan, he held the office four years. For several years following his retirement he was largely engaged in defending suits brought by the government. He was the whig candidate for congress in this district in 1844, and was defeated. In 1849 he was again named district attorney. He held this office until 1853, when he resigned. In this year he stumped California for Scott. In the campaign of 1856 he spoke throughout Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin for Fremont. He was one of the most celebrated campaign orators of Michigan, and a fine national orator. He practiced law in Chicago from April 1857, and then went west to the great fire. In 1871 he was appointed by President Grant, United States Attorney for Utah. He acted effectively in the violent raid on his retirement became the counsel for the Mormons. Since for two years, January, 1877, he returned to Detroit and resumed the practice of his profession. In the last days of the great Leadville excitement he removed to that place and there went to Denver, where he died.

Mr. Bates was representative from Michigan to the Whig national convention in Baltimore in 1844, at which Harrison and Tyler were nominated. He was also a prominent delegate to any national convention from Michigan.

Michigan Mourns.

Adjt.-Gen. Robertson has issued the following in reference to Gen. Hancock's death: "The commander-in-chief of the Michigan military forces regret announces to the Michigan militia the death of that distinguished soldier and citizen, Maj.-Gen. Hancock, commanding U. S. Army. As an appropriate mark of respect to his memory the soldiers of Michigan will wear the prescribed mourning, and will display their colors when on parade for thirty days.

Governor Alger has issued the following proclamation:

Another of the leaders of the gallant host of Michigan's sons, Major-Gen. Hancock, has fallen. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, senior major-general of the army, died at his residence Saturday at his post of duty, on the 9th instant, after a long and faithful labor and service. He had honored more than any other man, by his state, the state which it became fitting that he should represent in the halls of legislation and administration.

Therefore, I direct that the flags on the state capitol be placed at half mast for the period of thirty days, and that the day of his funeral the various departments be closed.

Respectfully, RUSSELL A. ALGER.

Attest: H. A. CONANT, Secretary of State.

Lansing, Feb. 11, 1886.

Comparative Statement.

As an illustration of the generally satisfactory character, I give the market value of half a dozen of Take Super or a half dozen in Japan, 1885, compared with 1884:

	Jan., 1885.	Jan., 1886.	Increase.
Atlantic.....	$ 260,000	$ 460,000	$ 1,000,000
Pacific.....			
Hecla.....	13,500,000	21,400,000	7,900,000
Franklin.....	200,000	440,000	240,00
Quincy.....	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
Quincy.....	1,000,000	2,200,000	1,000,000
Tamarack.....	1,250,000	2,500,000	1,250,000
Total.....	$16,300,000	$28,500,000	$11,790,000

This shows an increase of over $11,000,000 and will not compare unfavorably with the appreciation in any other class of stocks.—Houghton Gazette Mining Review.

MINOR STATE HAPPENINGS.

Chas. McLoud, a convict in Jackson prison attempted to escape, a foreman in one of the shops, with a cleaver on the 10th inst. In the struggle with a guard, the knife of McLoud with a knife, which penetrated the right lung. "Prepared for the Wilderness Campaign." Gen Badeau states that Gen. Grant was "always careless about his papers, and private or official, those were often thrust into his pockets, where they remained for months. In some such way Mr. Lincoln's beautiful God speed was mislaid. Gen. Grant had forgotten it entirely when, in 1866, I came across it in my researches for my history of his campaigns. He was so pleased at the discovery, or recovery, that he gave me the original letter at the time."

Proceeding attorneys of Michigan met in Lansing on the 10th inst, for the purpose of the present criminal laws, and to suggest a revision of the same. Another meeting will be held in the next session of the legislature. The Lansing meeting was attended as follows: President, C. J. Hilton, Detroit; vice-president, Simeon P. Bay, vice-president, James E. Mc Bride of Ottawa, treasurer, Alex. Mc Bride of Ottawa, treasurer.

The unfilled bond of auditors have found no bond bearer in the state, there are now no unclaimed bonds left outside for future redemption.

J. Samuel Robinson, a reporter on the Detroit Free Press, was found dead in his bed in his office apartments