Birmingham Eccentric

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TIMELY TOPICS.

A correspondent asks the Chicago Tribune the cause that led to the naming of the university town Ann Arbor to which the Tribune replies: In February, 1824, John Allen of Virginia, and Elisha W. Rumsey of Genesee county, New York, met by accident in Cleveland, Ohio, and formed an acquaintance. Both were in search of a new home in the forests of Michigan. They started for the interior of the territory together, and on arriving in the vicinity of the present site of Ann Arbor they located on some government lands embracing a beautiful burr-oak forest, with the Huron river on the north and east. Here they pitched a tent and built an arbor, of which Mary Ann Rumsey became the mistress. This primitive home was christened "Ann's Arbor," and the name, in the shorter form of Ann Arbor, was afterward chosen by the early settlers as a name for their new and thrifty village.

SAYS the Jackson citizen: "Warden Hatch has done away with the typical prison lock step and has never before been abandoned at this prison. Since it has been done in any other institution of the kind so far as we are able to learn. The keepers have drilled the men to march in double files in step, and although the men have had but about a month's practice they now move with a precision and solidity of ranks of a practiced military company. It is the opinion amongst keepers that the experiment has worked well in thereby little probability of the lock step being again resumed, even during the warm weather of the summer months.

ABOUT SIXTY A. Pettibone, graduate of Michigan University, class of 1820, and member of Congress in his fourth term, made the longest Latin quotation used in Congress for many years, if not ever, when he spoke January 19, 1886, upon the reception of Garfield's statue presented to the government by the state of Ohio. Mr. Garfield was an old teacher of the classics at Hiram College, and it will not think of a more appropriate classical quotation to be used in speaking of the memory of President Garfield, than "Qui quid ex optimis quidquid mirati sumus, manet manuarumque est in eternitate et temporum in fama rerum." "Whatsoever of him we have loved, whatsoever of him we have admired, remains and will remain in the eternity of time and in the same of great events."

A story is published in a Montreal paper of alleged spirit manifestations in the house of a farmer in the parish of Pie Bizard, some distance from the city. It is stated that noises of all kinds are heard in the house, and pictures of birds are seen on the walls. On a recent Sunday, it is alleged, when the family went to church he found three embers on the seat of his pew, which burned the cradle's hands in removing them, although the wood of the pew was not injured. Tied clothes are also said to be thrown around the room by some invisible agency. The family is composed of Hatter, mother and five children, and, except a little girl of 10 years, who laughs at the manifestations, the whole family are completely terrorized.

A bill was sent to the Senate from the House a few days ago in which so many words were mis spelled as to make the an image of the measure rather ambiguous and it was necessary to return it to the House for correction. This incident suggests the query Would it not be wise to apply the words of the civil service rules to the clerks or whoever has charge of the work of drafting the measures presented for congressional action? There is a lesson in this, and one, too, by which all can profit. Too little attention is paid to this all-important part of the education of the young of to-day, and in too many cases the spelling book and orthography is often omitted from the curriculum of study.

THE founder of the famous Oneida community, John H. Noyes, is sick at his present home at Niagara Falls with small prospects of recovery. He is 75 years old. His community, it will be remembered was broken up by the force of public sentiment several years ago after it had attained to a remarkably thriving condition. His theory held all property in common, and abolished the family as known among all Christian peoples. His own skill in management and remarkable power over his deluded followers kept down any dangerous development of such wild and impossible theories, and life in the community was decorous and orderly. Perhaps it was a constant menace to the most vital well-being of the state, and Noyes finally fled to Canada.

Prudence Crandall, whose school for colored children at Canterbury, Conn., was broken up by a mob fifty years ago, is living in Kansas, old and poor, and the legislature of Connecticut has been asked to grant her a small sum in compensation for her financial loss and to expunge from the records of the court the statement of her conviction for the offense of teaching colored girls to read.

GEN. Sheridan, presiding at the Army of the Cumberland reunion, will wield a gavel made of wood from Chickamauga, with a handle from Mission Ridge. A rifle bullet is imbedded in the head. It was presented to him by Gen. J. J. Wilder of Chattanooga.

Dr. Hammond says that to a thousand years all white men will be bald.

Of the Duke of Seville, who has lately made himself conspicuous in Madrid, it is said that he once went to a test without any crayat. The reason was not that he was a dude, but that he dismissed his valet for insolence, and did not know how to tie a cravat himself.

AROUND A GREAT STATE.

GRAND HAVEN'S LOSS.

Freight Sheds and Elevator Burned at a Loss of $250,000.

The Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee railroad freight house in Grand Haven, which stretches nearly three squares from south to north, was discovered to be on fire about 10 o'clock on the night of Feb. 1. The fire department responded with its lightning rapidity, but owing to a fierce southwest gale and the intense cold, were unable to check the fire's progress until the entire structure was in ruins.

By this time the entire city was all up by the fire to such an extent that any one could pick up a pin in the most remote parts of town. Capt. Jas. Gregor, of the propeller Wisconsin, who left for Milwaukee about 5 p. m., was compelled to leave his berth on the pier, but he managed to rived just in time to save the elegant passenger steamer City of Milwaukee from burning alongside of the elevator under repairs. She was taken amid stream in the ice to a place of safety.

In less than an hour the elevator was entirely enveloped in flames, and by midnight with the rest of the warehouse.

About twenty minutes after the elevator began to burn it fell in with a crash. The firemen worked heroically and succeeded in saving the north portions of the freight house. Although considerably scorched and damaged the building would have gone like tinder had it not been for the firemen putting all their energy upon that point.

The losses will be very heavy. At 10:45 Agent Mr. Wallace succeeded in getting an engine attached to about fifty or sixty loaded freight cars that were standing on the dock. Some twenty-five or thirty cars, however, were destroyed before they could be reached. All freight and provisions were safely removed from the main depot which was very much threatened for a time. The loss falls upon the railroad, all of which were laden, were towed out into the lake and saved. It is reported that in connection with the sheds yet standing, temporary sheds will at once be put up and the business of the railroad resumed with but little suffer. In fact the propeller Roanoke, which is now alongside the dock will be unloaded, and charged a cargo of 900 tons the next morning as usual and there is still room enough for several thousand tons in the warehouse yet.

The total loss will not fall short of $250,000, which amount is supposed to be fully insured.

Report Regarding the Soldiers' Home.

The report of Samuel Wells, manager of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Rapids, has been forwarded to Gen. Alger. It shows that since the opening of the home 30 soldiers have been admitted—20 in former years and 10 in 1887. Each has been given outside relief the same as paid in homes of like kind, as follows: Jerry Lee, late Private Sixth Michigan Infantry, October 4, 1865; Wm. Gardner, late First Michigan Sharpshooters, December 2, 1886; John C. Dodge, late Tenth Michigan Cavalry, December 7, 1865; Nelson Wilcox, late Fifth Michigan Infantry, January 28, 1865; David Frost, Fifteenth Michigan Infantry, January 28, 1865. Two have been dishonorably discharged—Chas. H. and Jere. Smith Webb. Four have been honorably discharged—James O'Callaghan, Marquis Benson, Charles A. Norris, Hubbell Middlebrook. Alonzo L. Hyde was expelled by resolution of the board and he is awaiting trial for assault to do grievous bodily harm. This leaves 190 still being cared for.

The conduct of the old soldiers now being cared for in the State Home has been good. Since an example was made in the case of those who were inclined to be riotous and insubordinate, the discussions to have been accepted that the state of Michigan did not propose to pamper or encourage any of that kind. Those who have served their sentences in jail and have since been permitted to go to the home are now quiet, obedient and respectful. In order to encourage a better practice at the home and disorderly persons transfers have been made from one locality to another. The Marquis home at Coldwater has received all the mates transferred to the American home where the surroundings and influences were best for them.

The board of managers having adopted the uniform of the United States infantry for the inmates, the same has been purchased at exceedingly low rates. The first purchase was from the state of Michigan, consisting of the suit of mustard colored clothing, which the boys turned out 93 uniform coats, 60 uniform trousers, 30 fatigue caps and 28 blouses, which were purchased for about $1.50 each at an expense of $42, making a total of $92 for the lot. Several have been procured at $2.25, $2.50, $2.75 and $3 each, according to size. A subsequent purchase of the remaining prices, was made at the following rates:

Dress coats	$3.50 to $4.50
Trousers	1.50 to 2.00
Fatigue caps	.75

The ruling prices for other clothing has been as follows:

Overshirts, per dozen	$4.75
Undershirts, per dozen	4.75
Drawers, per dozen	4.75
Hats, per dozen	12.00
Shoes, per pair	1.30
Suspenders, per dozen	2.00

MINOR STATE HAPPENINGS.

Senator Palmer has introduced in the Senate a protest against the bill to grant the title to the accretions to Mission Island Saginaw Bay to Col. H. Warner of Bay City.

E. B. Stanton, formerly of Belding, has established a stock farm at San Bernardino, southern California.

The Saginaw salt and lumber company is offering 500 acres for sale.

Flint celebrated the 140th anniversary of Tom Farmer's birthday in a befitting manner on the 31st ult.

The Battle Creek adventists will soon issue an edition of 2,000 missionary papers to be called the "Gospel Sickle."

The Big Rapids tub and pail factory, which has been employing 35 hands, has been closed by its indebtedness.

A contractor on the Calumet & Hecla road, named Angus Macdonald, is reported shipped from the upper peninsula to the county under him, amounting to $2,000. Macdonald has hitherto borne a good reputation.

Two months ago Michael Harmon and wife of Cascade, Kent county, went to Grand Rapids to visit their daughter and left their home in charge of a hired man. It is said that his wife left him and walked home, a distance of four miles. When Harmon reached home, it is alleged, he beat his wife with the most brutal manner, driving her from the house. The daughter was also driven off. She says she has not seen sex since, and the sheriff has been informed of her case with a view to investigating it. The daughter says that when her mother left the house she was only able to crawl.

William M. Keeson and Lewis Ingersoll were hunting in Pioneer township, Missaukee county, near Lake City, Jan. 19, years ago, when Ingersoll shot and killed McKesson, mistaking him for a deer. The coroner's jury satisfied that the shooting was accidental and have not been prosecuted. Ingersoll is now a resident of Isabella county, Ingersoll of, Pleasant township.

There are 471 pupils in the state reform school at Lansing.

The Michigan iron works of Grand Rapids, owned principally by Detroit men, is Geo. Hand and Wm. H. Powers. This is what is known as the Hand plant. Some of the wealthy class of creditors recently. The new proprietors will push the work.

E. Boos, the genuine "state" man, whom many tourists to Northern Michigan resorts have met on the boat, is off on a trip to Florida. He frankly acknowledges that a year in the next county is worth, to him a decade in the northern peninsula of Michigan.

Should congress pass the militia appropriation bill Michigan will gather in $10,000 or $12,000 as her portion.

The Alpena gas works which were begun in September last, are now nearly completed.

The Senate has confirmed Cyrenius C. Black to be United States district attorney for the western district of Michigan, and Edward Crawford and Patrick Galligan to be postmasters at Milford and Ypsilanti respectively.

A sort of finance vigilance committee has been organized by citizens of Gladwin, to see that counterfeiters are "fired out" and their own pockets with interest on costly funds, etc.

N. A. Osgood of Battle Creek, has been treasurer of the Michigan Agricultural society, in tion for 19 years past. He will resign at the annual meeting of the board of managers in Feb.

A railroad from Muskegon to Ashley via Greenville is talked of.

The Northern counties co-operative association has filed articles of association with the clerk of Mercer county. The object of the society is to sell wheat, lumber and other goods to its members and such others as may be in good standing with the community. The association's capital is $25,000.

David Frost, an inmate of St. Mark's hospital, Grand Rapids, is suing for the completion of the soldiers' home, died recently at the hospital. Mr. Frost was formerly of Wayne county.

The coroner's jury in the Jackson county house keeper case, after a long session, have come to their death by being burned. No further particulars are known.

D. J. Weeks' four-year-old daughter, at Flint Creek, recently had one of her eyes removed from the socket, and the wound had not formed back of the ball was removed.

Miss Anna Ege, of Ishpeming, who was injured in a skating rink, died at the home of her parents, and her body was taken to Detroit for burial. She was confined to her bed since that time, died a few days ago.

Michigan grand army men are working up a scheme to plant a colony of veterans in Dakota. Gen. Alger and James of Illinois is one of the prime movers.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ford of Hanover, aged respectively 78 and 76 years, died on the same day, died 70 years. Mr. Ford is blind.

Thomas W. Palsy of Hillsdale has brought his suit against the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad company for damages for the death of his son, killed by the train. The governor refuses to accept the case.

Randolph Batters, a boy 14 years old, was instantly killed at Homer's planing mill in Reed City by a pile of shavings and ice falling on him, Jan. 26th, 1888. The boy was not supposed to have been buried about 8 o'clock, but was not found until 7:00 p. m. He had been warned to keep away, as it was dangerous.

The soldiers' home managers met in Grand Rapids, Jan. 27. Col. C. V. Osburn of Marshall, was present. The bids for building were opened for the construction of the building at the home. Thomas Tiedke of Ann Arbor was the lowest bidder, at $99,667. Farr & Vinsant of Grand Rapids, bid $108,013; W. H. Smith of Saginaw, $105,555; and Wm. Crouch at Detroit, $158,000. The contract will be awarded later.

Col. Stewart Iree, a wealthy lumberman of Grand Rapids, died at a private asylum in Philadelphia, Jan. 28. of softening of the brain.

At the annual meeting of the Central Michigan agricultural society held in Lansing, Jan. 24, a resolution was passed requesting the president and secretary to tender the state fair society the use of the Grounds in the property of the Central Michigan society, on condition that the state fair be permanently located there.

Auditor-General Stevens has begun proceedings in the supreme court against Saginaw county to compel that county to pay a large amount—about $100,000—due the state. The matter has been in dispute for years.

In the civil case of Wm. L. Webber against T. H. Barry and others in the circuit court, the jury gave a verdict of $250.18 in favor of plaintiff. The case will be appealed.

Col. Stewart Iree of Grand Rapids, died in a private asylum in Philadelphia, Jan. 28. He was formerly a heavy lumberman, and was for a long time prominent in social circles. His mind was evidently weakened by the unbinding of fortune.

Henry C. Smith, an old and highly respected citizen of Grand Rapids died in that city Jan. 24, after a residence of 45 years. He was born since 1830.

A boom company has been organized at Cheboygan. Mill mills are in operation there—or will be by spring.

The business men at Holland are striving to start a company to operate a line of steamers between that place and Chicago and Milwaukee next season.

Moses Kingsley Esq., has received the genealogy of the Montague family, of which he is a member, which has been kept by Deacon and Mrs. H. Montague and deputy P. M. Montague, of Montague in the same family.—Kalamazoo Telegraph.

Lapeer had a $3,000 fire Jan. 28.

H. F. Stone of Bay City county has returned from his trip around the world, having made the journey in seven months at a cost of $2,000.

Mrs. Capt. R. C. Denison of Kalamazoo has much granted a pension of $20 per month during life.

Richard Dye, one of the pioneers of Ionia county, and one of the most prominent of its citizens and who had been engaged in the business line ect of Ion a city for more than twenty-five years, died Jan. 28. He had been walking through one of the rooms of his residence.

Myra Bacus of Charlotte, charged with arson, has been acquitted.

Information has been received that Aaron Palmer, the ruffian who murderously assaulted the Anderson brothers at Tecumseh some time ago, has been captured in Texas. Officers are taking steps to establish the identity of the man in order that he may be secure the necessary papers for his return.

The third trial of Harvey Marshall of Woodstock charged with assaulting with intent to kill the woods near Homer two years ago resulted in a verdict of guilty. The girl was then 16 years old. Since then she has given birth to a child is 19 years old and single. The evidence was largely circumstantial.

Thomas Brennan of Jackson, a brakeman on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, was killed in Bay City Jan. 30, his head being crushed between the end of a log and a car. When his father in Jackson inquired for the remains he threw herself on the railroad track saying she wanted to die. A switchman caught her in time to save her life.

Hon. Peter White of Marquette has been appointed chairman of the executive committee of the Lake Superior business men's association. Messrs. Sam Stephenson of Menominee, Jay A. Hubbell of Houghton and Thomas W. Seymour of Sault Ste. Marie, will accompany Mr. White. Another attempt to secure a favorable Moffat expects to get a hearing before the house committee on rivers and harbors.

D. E. Swan, who was elected prosecuting attorney of Jackson county at the last June under the name of D. T. Edington, and subsequently went to the Stillwater, Minn., penitentiary for a term of imprisonment, has been pardoned by Governor Parish, of which company he was an officer, has been pardoned, owing to his ill health.

Senator Plumb of Kansas introduced a resolution in the senate to-day for the bill to forfeit all the uncertified lands in the Marquette, Houghton and Ontonagon railroad, and all lands, certified or unpatented, to