THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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The Greek minister to Washington is one of the most striking looking men who appear in social or public life in Washington. He is a young man and a bowling swell. He has the soft skin, black eyes (graceful lashes and the good looks of his countrymen, and he cuts quite a figure in swell society. He has one peculiarity that detracts somewhat from his beauty and makes him the subject of frequent remark at all evening assemblies. His curly black hair is very thin on top of his head. He combs his hair up from the base of his skull, spreads it out in thin strips and actually pastes it over the top of his head. So long as his raven locks remain in position the ruse succeeds, but frequently the strands become separated and his head then appears with alternate stripes of black and white. The remarkable curl that hangs down the center of the Greek minister's forehead, however, is what attracts most attention. The heavy lock of black curly hair falls over the forehead and actually rests on the nose of the swell diplomat.

Gentlemen who cherish an ambition for public station and would like to run for the legislature without incurring the ill-of detraction should do well to settle in Texas. According to "The Livingston Pinery," San Jacinto and Polk counties in that state "will have to hire a legislator, as the office seems to go begging," and consequently in the absence of any candidate "The Galveston News" states that Matagorda county once failed to choose a legislator "because no one wanted the office at the time of the regular election."

Women who contemplate committing crimes would do well to go to California before committing them if the San Francisco Examiner is to be taken as a guide. It says: "The trial of a woman on this coast, if there be anything in the least interesting about herself or her family is simply a public show. It is not meant to be taken seriously. The woman is like the old Roman Emperor who used to fight gladiators armed with leaden swords. Justice plays the part of the gladiator.

A recent session of the senate was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendez, Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese congregation of New York, who according to the Jewish custom, wore his hat while engaged in prayer. This is the second instance probably in the history of the government—certainly within the last half century—when a Jew has offered prayer in the senate.

It is estimated that the life insurance policies now in force in the United States amount to the enormous sum of $5,000,000,000. Mr. Hostetter, of patent medicine fame, carries life policies amounting to $750,000. Wanamaker, the great Philadelphia merchant and philanthropist, carries $500,000, and Chauncey Depew has policies for a like amount.

Dr. C. J. Sketchly of Los Angeles, will remove his ostrich farm to a new location embracing 2,000 acres of land near Elmhurst on Red Bluff, on the Sacramento. He says the climate is identical with that of the Transvaal Republic of South Africa, and that he now considers the experiment ready to cease being a show and become an industry.

Gen. Crook, the famous Indian fighter, stands six feet in his stockings, and is as straight as an arrow. He has been 36 in the service and knows his business thoroughly. When on the warpath Gen. Crook wears an old canvas suit, said to be worth $2.25. He rides at the head of his column on a mule, with a rifle across his arm.

Swathmore college, which is under the direction of the Society of Friends, has established a professorship of the "elements of international law, with especial attention to the important subjects of peace and arbitration." This is in full keeping with the ancient testimonies of that church in favor of peace.

Mrs. Patti Lyle Collier who is employed by the government at Washington, as a reader of "blind handwriting," in the dead-letter office, is said to read everything known language except Russian and Chinese. A thousand letters a day pass through her hands, but she deals only with the addresses.

The late Louisa M. Alcott remarked of herself that it had seemed to be her destiny to fill the gaps in life: that she had been a wife to her father, a husband to her widowed sister, a mother to the orphaned daughter of her sister Mary, while still daughter, and sister and friend as well.

A Texan walked all the way from Texarkana to Boonville, Ind., to ask a widow to marry him, and when he reached his destination it was found that she had been married two months. A widow means business, and it doesn't take her long to find No. 2.

The exodus of Negro laborers to California is assuming such magnitude that the south is becoming alarmed, and the southern press is doing its utmost to convince the Negro that he has but little chance to compete successfully with the cheap labor of the Chinese.

Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson said at the women's international conference in Washington that the women who went to all quarters of the globe as physicians did more missionary work than the church missionaries, because the doctor appealed to nature.

A Washington man who had his nose broken by a base ball last year wants $5,000 damages to open this season with. You may think it a high-priced nose, but his girl has gone back on him since the break, and he would have got $20,000 with her.

Eli Foster, now a carpenter in Chicago, is one of the 11 survivors of the 120 Indian officers who dug the tunnel out of Libby prison. He is 61 years old. His escape was made on his 37th birthday, and he is accustomed to refer to it as his "second birth."

Mrs. Quincy A. Shaw of Boston, a daughter of Louis Agassiz, has for 30 years supported free kindergartens in the poorest quarters of Boston and Cambridge, at a personal expense of $50,000 a year.

A convention was held at Asheville, N. C., last week, the object of which was to secure for the southern states a larger share of the foreign immigration to this country.

Twenty-three states and three territories have established Arbor Day. It is only a question of time when the observance of the day will become national.

STATE NEWS

The Survivors Meet.

The survivors of the Sultana steamboat disaster met in Hillsdale April 26.

The following account of the disaster is furnished the Detroit Tribune by Joseph Stevens, who was one of the 2,000 soldiers on the Sultana at the time of the explosion:

There were about two thousand two hundred soldiers on board the Sultana when she started up the Mississippi river. About two hundred were regular passengers and the rest were on furlough, feeling that they would soon be at their homes in the north and not having the slightest fear of the harm to come.

Late at night on April 26, '65, we stopped at Memphis for fuel. I was lying on the hurricane deck near the wheelhouse, when about four o'clock in the morning of April 27 the explosion occurred. The boat was torn into pieces. The boilers were all blown outright (found themselves (many of them badly burned) struggling for life in the current of the river. Many saved themselves by clinging to planks. Some were carried down by their comrades clutching at them. The current was so swift they could not fight against it, and so many drowned. I was struggling and would have been gone soon, when a friend whom I had saved from death in Andersonville came and got me in some manner on a bale of hay.

I have nothing at all to tame but learned how I escaped when I came to.

Of 2,000 prisoners and 200 passengers 1,300 were saved.

There are about ninety now living in the United States who claim to have saved from only twenty or thirty can get to our meetings.

One next reunion is to be held on the twenty-third anniversary of the event.

In speaking of the explosion the survivors said that the general impression among themselves was that when the boat was coaled at Memphis powder was put into the coal, and when use was made of that coal the explosion occurred.

The Law is Sound.

Information was filed in the Newaygo circuit in March against Henry Bean, druggist, charged with selling whisky as a beverage. The circuit judge quashed the case, making it on the ground that under a recent decision of the supreme court section 33 of the act of 1887 was unconstitutional.

The motion was argued in the supreme court to compel the judge to withdraw this order and granted. The court says:

The circuit judge misapprehended the effect of this decision. We held the forfeiture of business clause to be invalid; but we further held that the new taxes and penalties not involving the peculiar disabilities stained, are valid, as well as the new method of prosecution in the name of people of the police courts. This fine and imprisonment may seem unusually severe, yet it lies entirely within the discretion of the legislature to impose it.

Michigan News Briefly Told.

Albert Rothe, aged nine years, was cut in pieces by a train on the F. & P. M. at Bay City the other day.

Henry Collum, engineer in Saline flouring mills, had his hand crushed by falling shaft and gearing catching it in shaft socket. It took men with levers to raise weight to release him.

Wilber McLean of Stanton, aged about 12 years, was playing with a dynamite cap in school house the other day, when it went off and the thumb and three fingers were torn off. So violent was the explosion that the fingers were imbedded in the ceiling at the top of the room.

The will of the late Capt. Leonard Hurrage of North Leominster, Mass., gives $30,000 to Olivet college.

The reversion of the Third Michigan Cavalry association, U. S. was held in Owosso April 25, about 100 of the survivors being present. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: J. H. Yates, Grand Rapids, president; H. H. Pope, Chicago, vice president; J. Calkins, Jackson, secretary and treasurer. The next meeting will be held at Jackson.

The supreme court has issued a mandamus ordering the probate court of Kent county to dismiss its proposed re-count of the votes cast for mayor at the recent election in Grand Rapids. The court holds that the proper place to contest the election is before the council and that the new election law is not supposed to interfere with the organic law of the city, as set forth in its charter. The decision is a decided victory for Weston.

Metcalf Bros. & Co. of Detroit have made an assignment. Liabilities $300,000; assets $275,000.

The bonded indebtedness of Grand Rapids is $766,000.

The adjutant general has issued the following commissions: J. W. Drury, captain, Company B, Fourth regiment; Thos. Reynolds, first lieutenant, Company H, Fourth regiment; C. J. Britt, second lieutenant, Company B, Fourth regiment; Robt. Dornton, captain, Company H, First regiment; J. H. Mitchell, captain, Company G, Second regiment; H. E. Spencer, first lieutenant, Company G, Second regiment; T. D. Curtis, second lieutenant, Company G, Second regiment; F. J. Haynes, captain, Company I, Third regiment; K. H. Hubbard, first lieutenant, Company I, Third regiment; G. H. Brown, second lieutenant, Company F, Third regiment; G. H. Brown, second lieutenant, Company H, Third regiment; P. J. Hitirman, second lieutenant, Company H, Third regiment.

Hon. James McMillan has resigned the chairmanship of the republican state central committee.

The Saginaw county clerk offered a marriage license free to the young woman who would first take advantage of leap year. Miss Eliza Willett, 21, claims the prize by eloping with Joseph Griffin, 29 years old, and the couple are now married.

Tom Van Buskirk, a native of Muskegon, was convicted of selling liquor without a license, and sentenced to a term at Ionia, besides a $50 fine. The conviction was secured through the evidence of Deputy Sheriff Murphy Saunders, who is now in jail charged with stealing. Van Valkenburg served his time and returned to Muskegon, where he was arrested for the fine he was placed in jail, where he met Jacks.

Fifty-two arrests for violation of the game law were made during March.

Samuel Thomas was arrested in Kalamazoo a few days ago. Thomas is wanted in Lima, Ohio, for the murder of John Hughes on the night of April 2, in an election riot between colored men and whites.

A meeting of the general association of Congregational churches of Michigan will be held at Saginaw, June 5.

Burglars robbed the till at Kihers & Bros.' store at Richmond, Macomb county, the other night and took about $40. Two other places were entered, with but poor results.

L. A. Town and wife of Grand Rapids, were killed in a railroad accident at Hopkins, April 27. Town was deputy game warden of Kent county.

Reports from all sections of the state are to the effect that the cold weather of April has retarded vegetation very much, and not more than half a crop is predicted.

The Loomis battery will hold its annual reunion in Coldwater May 28.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Dr. Wm. C. Hume of Corunna, charging him with obtaining money under false pretenses. This is the result of nearly three weeks' investigation of the affairs of the Farmers' insurance company of Leroy, O., and it is said will be thoroughly sifted. Considerable excitement has been occasioned thereby.

A man employed E. A. Carder in the front end of his store in Kalamazoo the other afternoon while the latter was out to lunch. When Carder returned he found the safe in the rear of the store had been robbed and then took a horse and buggy owned by a Cooper farmer and put for the country.

Trains will be running on the Toledo, Saginaw & Mackinac railroad by June 15.

A suit for $10,000 damages has been brought against the sheriff of St. Clair county by Frank M. Hubbard of Marine City, who alleges that the sheriff illegally levied on a lot of goods belonging to him.

James Wilson an employe of the Chicago repair shops at Port Huron, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement.

The Michigan weather service crop bulletin for April 28 says: The effect of the weather on wheat and grass has been injurious. The condition of wheat is regarded as much lower than one month ago. The amount of wheat winter-killed is now believed to be greater than earlier in the season. The weather has been favorable for spring work, which is now progressing rapidly.

Moses W. Field has tendered his resignation as chairman of the greenback state central committee.

A shoe factory will soon be in operation in St. Joseph.

The agricultural college has been closed for a few weeks to arrest the threatened epidemic of scarlet fever.

The long, narrow strip of land which runs from Traverse City into the heart of Grand Traverse bay, is to be made a summer resort. The Old Mission association, which owns much of the property at the point farthest in the bay, has decided to build a large hotel and have cottages erected at once.

Prosecuting Attorney Clay of Grand Rapids, has filed a notice for a new trial of his case against Enos Putnam for alienating Mrs. Clara Putnam.

In a no day last week 16 car loads of emigrants from Germany passed through Port Huron.

The state troops are to have mattresses to sleep on at the state encampment this summer.

Seymour Hower, assistant at the United States fish hatchery at Northville, will take charge of the United States fish hathery at Duluth in a few days.

Some of the prisoners in the jail at Coldwater got into a riot, and Mrs. Kinney, wife of the sheriff, walked in with a gun and crushed the rebellion.

Congressionalists of Michigan will establish a theological training school at Lansing. The committee appointed to take charge of the matter consider Lansing the proper place for the location of the school, and will have no difficulty in purchase the Hotel building and donate it to the association for the purpose desired. A committee of citizens has been appointed and will at once begin the work of securing the required sum. The proper endowment and equipment of the school on the extensive plan proposed will involve an outlay of $500,000 within the next score of years.

C. H. Fisher's lumber, shingle and planing mill at Coral was burned the other night.

Harry L. Leavitt who was arrested at Sioux City, Ia., for the infamous Haddock murder at that place, is running a variety theatre at Sault St. Marie.

The annual reunion of members of the legislature of Michigan will be held at Lansing June 13 and 14. The railroads give half rates of fare.

Petoskey is to have a new brick postoffice.

Cilo wants a roller mill, and offers a bonus of $2,000 to the man who will start one there.

Strong vein of pure water in sufficient quantity for the town has been been struck at Harbor Springs.

Dr. M. E. Wadsworth, who has been appointed state zoologist by Gov. Luce, was born in Ann Arbor, May, 1, 1860, in 1887, and graduated from Bowdoin college. From 1875 to 1885 he was one of the instructors of Harvard and the Agassiz museum. The received the degree of Ph. D. from Harvard in 1879. He has served on the geological surveys of several states, and has been engaged actively in the study of the mineral resources of Michigan. He is one of the most advanced workers in petrography in this country, having published over eighty articles and works. He has traveled extensively in Europe, and is acquainted with the Houghton mining school, and, as the intimate friend of the late State Geologist Wright, is peculiarly well apapted to carry forward the work now in hand.

The body of Joseph Lay, a carpenter, was found the other day hanging by the neck in a blacksmith shop on Sweet's farm in Colfax township, Montcalm county. He had been dead two or three days. Lay was given to drinking, and had no family that is known. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict of death by his own hands

Williams hall at the agricultural college was badly damaged by fire recently.

DETROIT MARKETS.

WHEAT, White	$ 88 @ 89½
Red	87 @ 88
CORN, per bu	56 @ 57
OATS	37 @ 38
RYE, per bu	1 05 @ 1 00
MALT	80 @ 85
TIMOTHY SEED	2 50 @ 2 55
CLOVER SEED, per bag	8 00 @ 8 05
FEED, per cwt	18 00 @20 00
FLOUR—Graham patent	4 50 @ 5 00
Michigan roller	4 25 @ 4 50
Minnesota patent	4 50 @ 5 00
Minnesota latent	4 35 @ 4 50
Rye per bu	65 @ 66
APPLES, new, per bbl	3 50 @ 4 00
HEAN, picked	2 35 @ 2 40
Lard	1 75 @ 2 00
Dressed hogs	6 00 @ 6 25
POTATOES	25@ 28
Hams	11 @ 12
Shoulders	16 @ 16½
Bacon	10 @ 10½
Tallow, per lb	3 @ 3½
HIDES—Green City, per lb	3
Country	2½
Green Calf	6½
Cured	6½
Salted	6½
Sheep skins, wool	50 @ 1 00

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Market slow. Selling lower; steers, $3 60@4 00; cows, $2 50@3 00; feeders, $2 35@3 70; cows, bulls and mixed, $1 75@3 00; Texas steers, $2 25@3 05.

HOGS—Market steady; mixed, $5 25@5 35; heavy, $5 30@5 40; light, $5 25@5 30; pigs, $5 40@5 50.

SHEEP—Market steady; wooled, $5@5 75; Western, $5 50@5 75; Texas, $4 50@5 50; lambs, $5 25@6 75.

GENERAL NEWS.

Rhode Island state officials raided Providence liquor places and poured out on the ground $5,000 worth of ale, lager, wines and whisky.

Jerome M. Ledden and Frank Lincoln, assistant postmaster at Butte, Montana, lost their lives by the burning of the Centennial hotel at that place.

The Adams express company claims that Fetheringham's verdict of $20,000 damages was against the evidence and influenced by popular prejudice, and a new trial is asked.

The Yaqui Indians are now at war with the Mexican federal troops. A battle a few days ago one Mexican was killed and several wounded, while the Indians had 17 killed and many wounded.

John H. Sheridan has been sentenced to 12 years in the penitentiary for attempting to rob a train near Missouri City, Mo.

Georgia prohibitionists send a delegation to the prohibition convention, instructed for Fish and Bayne for president and vice-president.

Two of the Florida delegates to the republican convention are white and two colored. They go uninstructed, but they are said to favor Blaine.

The New York senate has passed the high license bill.

President Cleveland will take part in the G. A. R. observance of Decoration day in New York.

Rev. Dr. J. W. O'Neal of Lebanon has been elected department commander of the G. A. R. of Ohio.

Central City, Dakota, was visited by a destructive fire April 27. Fifty families are homeless.

The dwelling house of Louis Stroman, near Springfield, S. C., was destroyed by fire last night. Four of Stroman's children, two boys and two girls, who were sleeping up stairs, perished in the flames. Stroman's eldest son was frightfully burned while rescuing the children from their burning brothers and sisters, and will probably die.

The Chicago Alarm, the paper of which A. R. Parsons, the anarchist, was the editor, has been indefinitely suspended.

Confederate Memorial day, April 27, was appropriately observed throughout the south.

The anniversary of Gen. Grant's birthday, April 27, was the occasion of banquets in nearly all the larger cities of the country.

At Castle Garden April 30, 3,950 immigrants were landed.

A petition is being circulated in Chicago for the pardon of Anarchists Fielden, Schwab and Neebe, now in the penitentiary at Joliet.

A meeting of the governors of the 13 original states was held in Philadelphia April 27, to make arrangements for the erection of a monument in Fairmount Park. A resolution was adopted calling upon the national government for aid.

Gen. Joe E. Johnson, the highest living ex-officer of the confederate army, has been unanimously elected president of the member of Baker post No. 8, G. A. R., of Philadelphia. Gen. Johnson applied for membership for the purpose, as he said, of participating in the charitable work of the organization. Great enthusiasm was manifested over the election.

Glen Falls, N. Y., was shaken by an earthquake April 30.

Damaging floods again prevail in New England.

Des Moines, Ia., druggists, announce that they will sell no whole liquors for any purpose. They don't want to be annoyed by prosecutions.

Three negotiable notes, aggregating $10,000 and belonging to Lambert Tree, Taylor spice company, Chicago, were stolen from a registered pouch en route to Chicago.

The overseers of Harvard college have decided against inter collegiate athletic contests.

Chas. Snyder, aged 12, hanged himself at Lewiston, Pa., because his mother had punished him.

Efforts to amend the Maryland bastardy law by striking out the word "white," thus making colored women the same protection as white women, failed in secret session of the lower house. In revising the code, however, the word was inadvertently left out and the code thus adopted.

In two fights recently the Mexican troops have killed 28 Yaqui Indians.

The man of war Yorktown and the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius were successfully launched at Philadelphia last week.

Rev. Charles F. King, pastor of the Miller M. E. Church, Columbus, O., cut his throat while temporarily insane from illness.

The hat factory of Crofut & Knox, the largest hat factory in the United States, has been closed for the first time in 20 years.

The shipSyngra was sunk in a collision off the Isle of Wight April 29, and 13 persons were drowned.

Emperor Frederick is greatly improved and in the best of spirits.

Six persons were trampled to death during a panic at a circus in Prague the other day.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The Prince of Wales has been installed grand master of masons for the fifteenth time.

Michael Davitt has written a letter to the Dublin Freeman, taking issue with the poor destitute families in the Arran Islands, who, he says, will perish unless they are supported for at least four months until the crops are grown. The cost of keeping the families Mr. Davitt puts at £700.

SUITED WITH EITHER.

Texas Republicans Favor Either Blaine or Sherman.

Texas republicans hold a state convention in Fort Worth, April 25. The platform condemns the free trade doctrines and sentiments expressed in the President's message, favors tariff for protection, demands special protection for the wool industry, endorses the Blair educational bill, laments the death of Hon. Roscoe Conkling, and declares that republicanism has been lost south of the Mason and Dixon lines. Separate resolutions were adopted declaring it to be the sentiment of the convention that the delegates go to Chicago instructed for Blaine, but not to be bound by the action of any presidential candidate, and that during the entire days' session. The delegation adopted resolutions declaring their preference between Blaine and Sherman.

From the Old Bay State.

The republican state convention of Massachusetts was held in Boston April 25. Senator Hoar, Ex-Gov. Long, Lieut. Gov. Hall and F. L. Burdett were chosen delegates at large to the Chicago convention. The name of Blaine was received by the republican convention with a storm of applause and enthusiastic "tiger." The platform favors a revision of the tariff, but "in accordance with the principle; pronounces for liberal protection; declares in favor of high tariff; denounces the democratic civil service reform; declares in favor of bimetallism, and emphatically pronounces for reciprocity with American communities.

Opposition to Powderly.

The commission of five appointed by the anti-administration Knights of Labor convention held in Chicago last October, has issued a circular to the order declaring that it had left no stone unturned to raise 900 to 240,000; that Powderly's special call for funds for lecturers was in reality to get funds to keep under cover of lecturers, until the next convention, and calling on all true knights to rally to the opposition and help re-organize the order.

Seven Men Buried Alive.

While a gang of men were at work in a sewer trench in Yonkers, N. Y., a water-pipe burst, causing the sides of the ditch to cave in, burying the men beneath earth and water. One hour' wrench was buried except the head, a beggard pitcously to be rescued, but efore assistance could reach him he was completely inguifed. Seven men were killed. The bodies have been recovered.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Appointment Given to Melville W. Fuller of Illinois.

Washington News Summarized.

The President has sent to the senate the nomination of Melville W. Fuller of Illinois, to be Chief Justice of the Supreme court of the United States.

Melville Weston Fuller was born in Augusta, Me., February 11, 1833. His mother was the daughter of Chief Justice Nathan Weston. He was graduated at Bowdoin in 1853, his classmate being E. J. Phelps, minister to England. Mr. Fuller married the daughter of his partner, in Augusta in 1856. While waiting for clients he was the editor of the Age and also contributed to journalism. Subsequently Mr. Fuller came to Chicago. For 30 years he has enjoyed a lucrative practice and has won distinction among the foremost at this city. He is a democrat.

In 1862 Mr. Fuller was chosen to the legislature, and although a democrat, running each time in a strongly republican district, he was victorious by large majorities. He was a delegate to the democratic national conventions of 1864, 1872, 1876 and 1880. In 1858 Mr. Fuller married Miss Cynthia C. Reynolds, and after her decease, Mary Ellen, daughter of the banker, William P. Coolbaugh. He has three children.

In his practice in the supreme court of the United States, Mr. Fuller has come in contact with Edmunds, Thurman, Hoadly, Ingersoll and other admittedly great lawyers, and he is considered to hold his own. He is familiar with the decisions of the court and has informed himself upon the constitution. Mr. Fuller had no intimation whatever of the nomination and was so overcome at the congratulations that some moments he could utter nothing more than an exclamation of surprise. He stated that he would not decline the nomination.

The senate inter-state commerce committee was agreed on an amendment to the inter-state commerce act imposing a fine not exceeding $5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding two years upon railroad officials and shippers participating in secret combinations as to the quantities and character of goods shipped, and discriminating by freight otherwise to secure discrimination in rates.

The tariff debate in the house April 29 was participated in by Mr. Hynum of Indiana, on the Democratic side, and Mr. Dockery, his colleague, expressed opposing views. Mr. Dockery of Missouri reported the measure, as did Mr. Shaw of Maryland and Mr. Oates of Tennessee.

Mrs. Dickinson, Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Cleveland have begun their last reception of the season in Washington. Judge and Mrs. Brown were with Mrs. Palmer. Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. Cleveland received.

The outlook for the passage of the river and harbor bill is discouraging. The committee has stopped consideration of the bill, and the Pacific coast country has not been touched upon. Mr. Houtelle will fight every item in the bill that looks to a large appropriation.

The whole question of the Michigan land grants has been re-opened.

The postmaster-general has completed arrangements with the postmaster general of Canada whereby there will be a uniform rate of postage of one cent per ounce on all merchandise, including seeds, cuttings, bulbs, scions and all grafts, and one cent per two ounces of printed matter in the mails exchanged between the two countries, and now known as third class matter in the domestic mail of this country. This arrangement goes into effect May 1.

The bill to establish a national college of dentistry has been favorably reported to the senate.

The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution forever prohibiting the manufacture, importation, exportation, transportation and sale of alcoholic liquors in the United States has been favorably reported.

Judge Cooley, chairman of the inter state commerce commission, is confined to his bed with pneumonia.

The house committee on invalid pensions will report a bill providing that all persons who are or may become totally disabled from injuries received, or diseases contracted while in the military or naval service of the United States, shall receive a pension of $72 per month.

The bill to restrict the sale of opium in the District of Columbia and the territories has been favorably reported, as has the bill to establish a department of labor.

Preparations are already under way for placing the cotton statue in the hall of Divinity building of the Catholic university to be erected in Washington, May 24. About 10,000 invitations have been issued to the leading clergy and laity of the country.

The house of representatives has ordered 12,000 copies of the speech on the late Congressman Moffatt printed.

Congressman Chipman has introduced a bill to bridge the Detroit river at Detroit. The bill was referred to the committee on commerce, of which Mr. Tarsney is a member, and he is relied on to hurry the project along. The bridge grants the right to build the bridge to Messrs. Pridgeon, Gillette, Stephens, Scherer, Hale, Kirby and Miller, or their assigns. The plans are to be submitted to the secretary of war for his approval. The piers are to be "solid" and with arms 300 feet long, making six openings, each 200 feet in width. Each structure is to be 15 feet above the water. The arms are to be kept open continually during the navigation season, and closed during the winter for the use of the railroads. The bridge is to be a railway bridge, free of tolls, and all are to have equal advantages.

The senate has passed bills providing for public buildings at Youngstown and Akron, Ohio.

Representative Burrows of Michigan has introduced in the house a bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to place on the pension roll the widows and dependents of surviving honorably discharged soldiers who have served at least ninety days in the late war, the rate of pension to be one cent per month for each day's actual service.

Pensions have been granted in the employment of 1,500 additional clerks in the pension bureau and for the chief of the adjutant general for bringing up the rolls.

Maj. R. D. S. Tyler of Detroit, who for several months has filled with credit the position of superintendent of the repair shop of the postoffice department, has been promoted to chief of the mail equipment division, the former position paid $1,600 per annum and his new one is worth $2,100. Maj. Tyler was a gallant soldier, who suffered many wounds in the service.

Congressman Ford has introduced a bill appropriating $35,000 for building and experimenting with the wire gun invented by C. C. Chamberlain, the bill lawyer of Muskegon, Mich. The gun has many novel features which the projector claims will revolutionize gunnery. Its peculiarity is that it is made of wire wound about thin steel cylinders.

A VOICE FROM MAINE

Maine Republicans Endorse the "Plumed Knight."

The republican state convention of Maine was held in Bangor April 26, with 783 delegates present. The convention declared for Blaine. The platform adopted declares for protection of American industry and of our home markets to the end that American labor may be shielded against the depressing influence of foreign labor and that natural resources of the country developed, is demanded by the patriotism and the enlightened sentiment of the nineteenth century. It is the duty of the republicans in congress to carry out the intentions of the people now being made to force through the house of representatives the Mills bill; favors the abolition of the tax on the internal revenue taxes as will bring the total annual receipts of the treasury to equal as nearly as practicable the just expenditures of the government. A third plank is as follows:

"Resolved, that the Hon. James G. Blaine, our long-trusted statesman, is deserving of the thanks of the people of Maine and of the entire nation for the prominence and remarkable success of his public life in which his Paris letter has attracted the free trade manifesto of President Cleveland and politicians of all parties, and maintaining the industries and markets for the American people."

Pennsylvania Republicans.

The republican state convention of Pennsylvania was held in Harrisburg April 25th. The platform adopted favors the direct tax of $1 per head on the people of States and Territories, the submission of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution, and declares against the Mills bill. James T. Mitchell of Philadelphia, was nominated for supreme judge. Thos. Dolan of Philadelphia and Lewis Pugh of Lackawanna were chosen candidates for congressmen-at-large. Senator M. S. Quay, General Daniel H. Hastings, Nelson F. Reed and Henry W. Oliver were chosen delegates-at-large to the convention. The delegates go uninstructed.

BEER DUELS IN GERMANY.

Privileges of Challenged and Challenger—The Weapons Used in Combat.

The old English custom of "taking wine with a person," much merely sipping from his glass, seems almost a neutral observance when compared with the corresponding usage of the Kneipe. In the first place, no one must drink solus. If anyone ventures to take a solitary sip he is at once compelled to drain a full measure to the health of the company generally. The proper course is to drink to some one else, at the same time specifying the quantity the drinker proposes to imbibe. The person addressed is bound to accept the challenge, which he may do with a simple "drink away," or some equivalent phrase. When the challenger is bound to drink one within the five minutes the quantity he has named, and within five minutes more the challenged is required to drink the same, or a like quantity. If either fail in his obligation excommunication is the result. The challenged party may not be content simply to accept the challenge. Stirred with noble ardor he may "go higher," doubling the quantity named. The challenger is then bound to do so on until the total quantity reaches a maximum of eight tankards, which are drunk in the same manner, one by one, with an interval of five beer minutes between each. The beer drunk by the challenged "in response" is not allowed a "double debt to pay."

Probably some craven soul in the past devised the plan of saving his brains from the fatigue of making the same beer which he drank in response, and a person also serve the purpose of a challenge to another. This is strictly forbidden by the code (under the usual penalty), unless, indeed, the original challenger has used the words "in die Runde, ich trinke" (to pass around), in which case A drinks to B, who drinks the beer with which he responds to A, drinks also to C, C responding to B, drinks simultaneously to D, and so on all around the table. Speaking of anything connected with study (Anglice, "shop," "school") is tabooed at the Kneipe. If any one violates this in the manner he is promptly called to order by the sarcastic remark from one of other coffee companies, "Gelehrt? (You learned man). This is regarded not merely as a rebuke, but a challenge to the death, the weapons being, as usual, at beer tankards. The person thus rebuked may either a reply accept the challenge (this, indeed, he is bound to do in some shape) or he may retort with the still more cutting insinuation, "Doctor" (You're a doctor). This again may be met with "You're a professor," and finally, last and deadliest offense of all, "Apist!" (You're a pope).

Such insults as these can naturally only be wiped out by blood, which according to the gravity of the offense the greater is the quantity required. The comparatively soft impeachment of being a learned man can be wiped out with a half tankard; but "doctor" demands a whole tankard, "professor" two tankards, and anything short of four tankards will rehabilitate the man who has been dubbed a "pope." Each party chooses a second. The tankards are filled to the brim and the challenger "makes the weapon equal," i. e., sees that the beer stands at the same level in both. The second of the challenged party gives the word: "Ansetzen your weapons!" (The combatants raise their tankards.) "Knock" (They knock on the table.) "Read" (They raise them to their lips.) "Off" They empty them and bring them down with a bang upon the table; the one who first brings down his tankard has emptied the winner. If either of the combatants has not finished his full quantity within the usual five minutes—excommunication!—*Cornhill Magazine.*

THERE IS EVEN A COFFIN TRUST.

A Monopoly Just as Dictatorial as Any of the Trust.

"The methods of the sugar Trust are hardly more oppressive and dictatorial than are the methods of the Coffin Pool," said a well known undertaker. "This combine is one of the oldest of all the commercial rings. It was formed about eight years ago. All the large manufacturers of coffins and of coffin furniture in the country belong to the Trust. Its strength it will compare with any of the Trusts. It controls absolutely the manufacture and sale of coffins.

"How does it operate in this city?"

"The same as elsewhere. It refuses to sell a coffin or a pound of material to an undertaker, who does not belong to the local organization. Suppose a man wishes to go into the undertaking business. He must join the local association, which is simply an offshoot from the manufacturers' Trust, before he can buy a stock of goods. Suppose he does not sell him if he offered ten times the list prices. If a man tries to manufacture goods for himself it is impossible. He can't buy the necessary materials. There is one undertaker in town who does not belong to the local organization—only one. He has made a plucky fight against the pool and succeeded thus far to manufacture his own caskets. A few months ago the extent of the boycott under which he was placed, he wrote to a dozen manufacturers in different States offering them orders. In every instance the answer or polite replies declining to sell him goods.

"Are there no revolts?"

"Rebellion is useless. What can undertakers do against the combine? Manufacturers of coffins have to yield to their dictation or quit the business."

"How much does the pool keep up the price of coffins?"

"In common caskets it forces the prices up at least 100 per cent. There is one casket that costs the manufacturer about $20. The pool makes it sell for $100 and to the final buyer for $150. Another style in black is sold by the undertakers at $75 that the pool forbids it would be $75. There is an elegant white broad cloth casket which costs its trade $225, and the family $300. It could be duplicated for $100. The cheapest hard-wood broadcloth-covered casket is $75 to the undertaker and $125 to the buyer. A fine casket would be $50 manufacturer's price of the most expensive hardwood coffin—and it is made of cedar—is $325 and the undertaker's price $400 and more. It ought to be sold for $150. The cheapest metallic casket is listed at $125, and the retail price is dictated at $175. It isn't worth over $100. The dearest metallic casket is sold at $325, and $200 should be enough for it.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A New Test.

I know a married couple who have a bright child who I presume has heard her father talk into her mother about those buttons or socks or something, and I suppose she stored up the knowledge to make a point on her mother. Anyway, they were at breakfast and the little girl was rather quiet. Suddenly she spoke up from her very severe tones:

"Mamma! are you a moral woman?"

"What do you ask such an extraordinary question for? I hope I am."

"Well, you didn't darn my socks last week."—*San Francisco Crunicle.*

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Topics of General Interest for the Farm and Home Freely Discussed.

The Method of Flailing Oats Coming into Practice Again—How to Make a Large Poultice—How to Broil a Steak Properly—Some Suggestions on Planting—Farm Notes.

NOTES.

Threshing Oats by Hand.

Some good farmers are readopting the old method of threshing their oat crops with a flail, having the work to be done in winter, and thus furnishing employment to men who would otherwise be idle. There are some other advantages in this practice not included in the employment it gives to labor in winter. The finely divided oat straw is readily eaten by stock, and there are usually enough light oats in it to make it possibly good feed. It is better to leave light oats in the straw than to put them in the bin among the heavier grain, for unless the grain is carefully graded some of these light oats will go in the seed and help to deteriorate the crop. With hand threshed oats in cold weather, there has been no danger that vitality of seed has been injured by heating. While the oat is in the sheaf any dampness in the grain is absorbed by the chaff, and as the head is bulky and porous it dries out without injury. Oats threshed by machine as soon as harvested, and then dumped, several hundred bushels, perhaps, in a mass, will be pretty sure to heat. It would be better in such case if the seed were entirely spoiled instead of having its vitality impaired. The crop comes up weak, and if the season is not very way favourable it is a partial failure at the best, and this makes a larger proportion of poor oats for the subsequent season.

HOW TO MAKE A LARGE POULTICE.

A flannel bag should be prepared, a convenient size being twelve inches by eight. This should be closed at three sides, and left open at the fourth. One side of it should be about one inch or one inch and a half longer than the other, and it is convenient also to have four tapes attached at the points which form the corners when the bag is closed, in order to keep the poultice in position. Into this bag, another strip of flannel should be prepared of the same breadth as the length of the bag, and long enough to wrap around it once or oftener. Crushed linseed, bowl and spoon should then be got together, and the spoon and bowl thoroughly heated to scorching in boiling water; the poultice should then be made with perfectly boiling water, and rather soft. As soon as it is ready, it should be poured into the bag, previously warmed by holding it before the fire, and the bag is formed by the longest side of the bag, should now be turned down and fastened in its place by a few long stitches with a needle and thread; it should then be quickly wrapped in the strip of flannel (also previously warmed) and fastened in situ, if necessary, by means of the tapes. It may be covered on the outside with a sheet of cotton wool. In this way the poultice may be applied boiling hot to the skin without burning; the two layers of flannel, which are next to the skin, allow the heat to pass very gradually indeed to the skin; and the moisture of the poultice soaks through them, they become better conductors, and the heat passes more quickly, but the increase is so gradual as not to cause any painful sensations whatever, and is one of soothing and comfort. The poultice, which naturally keeps much longer hot, and the necessity for changing it arises much less frequently.

BROILED STEAK.

When beef is butchered in cool weather—say in December—so much of it as is intended for steak may be hung in a cool place, without salt, and steak cut from it as needed, rubbing a little dry meal over the freshly cut part, to prevent drying and crusting. The steak should then hangs without salt the more tender the steak will be. Broiling steak is a very simple process, and yet we rarely find a properly cooked steak on either public or private tables. First trim off the rough edges and pound it with a very sharp knife, and pound the steak only on one side; great many disapprove of this idea of pounding; but, nevertheless, it is the right way. The grid-iron was formerly used for broiling steak, but it is by no means necessary. Some have an idea that steak must be cooked right on top of the stove, but if not very careful the fire will get too hot and scorch the steak; and then, too, the stove is soiled, and smoke pervades the whole house. An ordinary pan—a biscuit pan—will answer infinitely better. Place the