THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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In connection with the scheme to reclaim the great deserts of the west, Joaquin Miller, in an article on the "North American Nile" makes an argument, which, at least, is very plausible. He makes the point that the land instead of always being a desert, like Sahara, was once the garden spot of the world. The ruins of Arizona are older than history—as old as the oldest ruins on the Nile of Egypt. The indications to-day show that the region was once densely populated. No allurements of gold, nothing but the generous soil and genial climate built up cities that rivaled in magnificence and extent the Cairos of Egypt. If then these early Americans made a blooming paradise of the land which now is a desert, can we not do something with our enlightened education and improved methods to reclaim the waste? Facts also bear out Joaquin Miller. Wherever irrigation has been tried the soil has yielded to its influence and has yielded tropical fruits like dates and bananas. Under the circumstances the poet of the Sierras is right in calling the rock-bound Colorado river the North American Nile.

Charles Crocker, who was one of the "big four" combination which built the Central Pacific, left an estate valued at $20,000,000. The commission of inquiry sent out by congress to investigate the Central Pacific management throws some light on the methods adopted by Crocker to gain his wealth. The "big four" was made up of Crocker, Stanford, Huntington and Hopkins. In the construction of the Central Pacific railroad they claimed to have paid forty-one millions in cash, eighteen millions in bonds, sixty millions in stock—making a total of one hundred and twenty millions. The cost of building the railroad as determined by the Pacific railroad commission was only fifty-eight millions. This may explain into whose pockets the sixty millions jingled as clear profit, paid by congress to Crocker and his partners over and above the actual cost of the road.

The boast of Emperor William that forty million Germans will die before a foot of territory gained by war will be surrendered is, in the light of history, supremely silly. Nations as brave as the Germans have been compelled to submit to a loss of territory, and they have not waited for the last man to be killed to accept the situation imposed upon them. Germany is not nearly so secure as her boyish emperor seems to think she is. She lies between the two most powerful countries in Europe, either of which would like to see the vanity of the young emperor disciplined. Russia marching west with a view to a subsequent march to the Mediterranean, with France on Germany's western border, would test German valor as it has not recently been tested. There is no immediate prospect of such an alliance, but one may result from the over-confidence of the German emperor.

The great cattle syndicate which for five years has held a lease on the fine grazing country of the Cherokee nation is negotiating for a renewal or extension, the present lease expiring on the 1st of October. The syndicate owns two hundred thousand head of cattle, and is one of the most powerful in the business. As showing the advantage it has taken of the Indians during the past five years, it is stated that the syndicate offers to increase the annual rental of the lands from one hundred thousand dollars to one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, all improvements made go to the Cherokee nation.

Not satisfied with the territory gained in Zanzibar, Germany intends to push forward in Africa and maintain a commercial highway, with stations from the lakes eastward. With American missionaries teaching the people of the Congo region the art of agriculture; the Catholic church combining to drive back marauding Arabs and suppress the slave trade; Emin Bey struggling to civilize the equatorial provinces, and Portugal, Germany and Great Britain engaging in a contest for supremacy, it looks as if the "Dark Continent" would soon yield up its secrets to civilization.

Congressman Ford of Michigan, the chairman of the Immigration Investigation Committee, says that the immigration laws are really a dead letter so far as they prevent the influx of pauper immigration and contract labor. He will ask for immediate remedial measures from congress and he believes that in a reasonable time there will be great reforms in this direction. The testimony taken by this committee proves that reforms are badly needed.

Mormonism is spreading. The wise of Salt Lake may be disintegrating, but only for the benefit of other localities. Four hundred Mormon families have recently settled in Wyoming. Thousands of Mormons have settled in Idaho. There are large Mormon colonies in Arizona and Colorado. Nevada is so over-run with them that it has been declared the Mormons could soon secure control of the state if they should make a vigorous effort.

Mrs. Gen. Sheridan passes her time at Nonquit in a quiet manner. Her looks and actions are those of a woman without a friend in the world. But for her children to look after, life would apparently be a burden. She dresses in deep black. She goes to a hotel for her meals and takes short walks. She will probably remain at Nonquit until late in the fall.

The statistical reports show some remarkable features of trade life in foreign countries. In England there are 347 female blacksmiths, not blacksmiths in the sense of owning and running smithies merely, but actual swingers of the hammer and bellows. There are also 9,138 women who are employed in nail making.

The Saturday half-holiday is growing rapidly in favor. In the east not only the stores and shops are closing Saturday afternoon, but the factories and foundries also. It looks as though the half-holiday is destined to be as much an occasion of regular observance as is Sunday.

The smallest member of the supreme court of the United States is the new chief justice, who is but five feet six inches tall and weighs only 125 pounds. Associate Justice Gray is the largest, measuring six feet five inches in hight and tipping the beam at nearly 200 pounds.

A Massachusetts man offers to prove by statistics that seven-tenths of the marriage engagements that are broken are broken by women; that three widows re-marry to one widower, and that two wives elope to one husband.

STATE NEWS.

Patriarchs Militant I. O. O. F.

The following orders have been issued for the grand cantonment which assembles at Grand Rapids, October 9:

All cantons of the Patriarchs Militant comprising this department are ordered to assemble in grand cantonment at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Tuesday, October 9, in full dress uniform, for inspection and review.

The citizens of Grand Rapids have contributed sufficient to permit the following prizes to be offered for the best drilled cantons: First, $100; second, $50; third, $25. To the largest canton forming part of the cantonment and in line on day of grand parade, $50. To the largest canton forming part of the cantonment which has traveled the longest distance to be present, chevalier's uniform, value $40. To the officers and chevaliers best drilled in sword manual, first, $15; second, $10; third, $5. The drill shall be without music and all movements, including the sword drill, will be made and judged according to the revised edition of Patriarchs' Militant Tactics.

All cantons entering for the contest must report at Grand Rapids on the morning of Tuesday, October 9, and remain until the exercises are concluded October 10, unless excused by special order of the commander of the department.

The program for the cantonment will be as follows:

Tuesday, October 9, will be given up to reception of P. M. troops at depots during forenoon. Competitive drill of Cantons in the afternoon. Dress parade at 6 p. m. Exemplification of ritualistic work and conferring of "Decoration of Chivalry" in the evening.

Wednesday, the 10th, competitive drills, inspection of P. M. troops, grand parade of all cantons, the grand encampment and subordinate lodges to be reviewed by Maj. Gen. H. Soule, commanding division of the lakes, the department commander, grand patriarch of the district, dress parade, and awarding of prizes to winning cantons and chevaliers.

In accordance with special orders from headquarters, third army corps, an election for lieutenant colonel of the first and second regiments, P. M., I. O. O. F., to fill vacancy caused by the promotion of Lieut. Col. A. Setterberg to the coloneicy of the first regiment, and Lieut. Col. W. F. Wiselogal to the coloneicy of the second regiment, will be held by Maj. H. H. Frankinfield, assistant adjutant general of the department, at his office in Hillsdale, Oct. 1, 1888, at 3 o'clock p. m.

Michigan News Briefly Told.

Charles W. Waldron, part owner and manager of the Waldron bank, of Hillsdale, has absconded, taking with him money and notes estimated at from $60,000 to $80,000. The bank is doing business, and all depositors will be paid in full. There is a woman in the case, and they have gone to Canada together.

The autumn term of the agricultural college opened August 28.

Prof. L. H. Bailey of the agricultural college, has gone to Europe, where he will spend a few months before entering upon his duties at Cornell university.

Mrs. H. M. Dubois of Oak Grove, is under arrest for kindling the fire which burned her dwelling to the ground the other night.

The twenty-first re-union of the Eighteenth Infantry was held in Adrain on the 28th ult.

Three thousand persons attended the farmers' festival at Gagetown, Tuscola county, August 28. Ex Senator Jones was the orator of the day.

The Northville school furniture company has received an order for 102 school desks from Shanghai, China.

Fifty five years ago Lowell Hurd of Davison, Genesee county, was married, and many years after his wife died. Last week he was married again, at Flint, to Mrs. Lucy Swift, who was a bridesmaid at his first wedding over half a century ago.

Charlie Sheldon, who passed so creditable an examination at Port Huron for the Annapolis cadetship, has since been disqualified on account of a serious defect in vision. Fred Brown of St. Clair county, the boy who stood second best in the examination, will succeed him.

A farmers' league has been organized in Jackson county, and is officered as follows: President, John C. Sharp of Summit; vice president, Eugene Belden of Spring Arbor; secretary, Frank Maynard of Blackman; treasurer, John Chilson of Hanover. Each town in the county has a member of the executive committee.

W. H. Solomon, a well known and weathy lumberman of Grand Rapids, is dead.

A syndicate composed of Thomas Friant, T. Stewart, White and Francis Letellier of Grand Rapids, and John Nugle of Milwaukee, have just purchased 8,000 acres of sugar pine lands in Fresno county, California, estimated to contain 500,000,000 feet.

Louis E. Jacobs of Mendon died suddenly a few days ago, of heart disease. He was a member of the Fourth Michigan battery, and served with distinction during the war.

Sergt. Conger, director of Michigan weather service bureau, has re-enlisted for another five years of service. His third term. His headquarters are at Lansing.

William Carnes of Cadillac has been sentenced to 90 days in the Detroit house of correction for beating his wife.

A. G. Reynolds, sheriff of Newaygo county, has been arrested on complaint of Miss Sarah Munroe, charging him with bastardy.

Heavy forest fires are raging in Presque Isle and Cheboygan counties.

John Brackenfelder was hit by a freight engine at Monroe the other day, and instantly killed.

Dr. C. H. Winn and C. S. Closson of Nashville have been arrested on a charge of grave robbing.

William Jackson of Grindstone City, who has fallen heir to $150,000 in England, will go into grindstone quarrying on an extensive scale as soon as he receives his inheritance.

It is reported that cholera is raging in Presque Isle county, the people dying faster than they can be buried. The report lacks confirmation.

Intelligence of the death of Rev. Tillman C. Trowbridge, D. D., president of the Central Turkey college, has been received by friends in Detroit. He was a resident of this state and a graduate of the Michigan University. He leaves a widow and three children. Arrangements had been made for him to join Bishop Harris' party on their trip through Palestine. He was one of the most noted men in the missionary field.

Some time ago a lumberman operating in Michigan imported into Canada some oak timber of a description covered by the customs free list, but notwithstanding this duty was charged on the same. This has been paid under protest, and the case has been referred to the exchequer court for a definition of the law. The amount involved is $10,000.

Mrs. W. R. Dovey of St. Louis told her family at breakfast the other morning that she would kill herself before noon, but no heed was paid to her threat. She succeeded in taking a dose of strychnine, and in 15 minutes was dead. Family trouble was the cause.

James O'Grady of the state executive board of the K. of L. denies T. B. Barry's statement that the order is at a standstill, with prospect of disintegration, unless there is a change in the management.

Iron ore has been discovered near Harbor Springs that assays 65 per cent of ore to the ton.

Herbert St. John's barn, two miles northwest of Imlay City, burned with 400 bushels of oats and some hay. Tramps set fire to the barn.

Dr. E. H. Woods of Hersey is under arrest, charged with incendiarism.

Hugh Ireland of Detroit is accused of embezzling $80 in cash belonging to O. B. Cook & Co. of East Saginaw, for whom he traveled.

The gold excitement in upper Michigan continues to grow, and now still another company has been formed to delve after the yellow stuff.

David Ross, a well-known citizen of Taymouth, has been arrested on a charge of forging some affidavits to strengthen his pension claim now pending at Washington.

A horse and buggy stolen from Lawrence Markey of Jackson, a few weeks ago, have been found at Mayville, N. Y.

A soldiers' cemetery is to be located in Jackson, and a monument erected.

Charles O. Seaman, the actor who shot a hackman named Weiss in Mt. Clemens in July last, gets 10 years in Jackson.

Accommodations have been secured for 3,000 Michigan people at the G. A. R. encampment to be held in Columbus, Ohio.

John C. Johnstone of Port Huron, has a collection of over 5,000 coins and medals, including a very fine assortment of presidential campaign medals.

Prof. W. A. Drake, secretary of the Hillsdale county board of school examiners, has perfected plans for the introduction and teaching of a uniform system of penmanship in the schools of that county.

The long talked of logging railroad, from the Potts headquarters in Oscoda county to Oscoda, will probably be built. It is a private enterprise of the J. E. Potts salt and lumber company and will cost from $150,000 to $300,000.

George Thompson, the Isabella county farmer who killed his neighbor, has procured bail.

Senator Palmer has secured a favorable report from the house committee on public lands on his bill forfeiting the Ontonagon & Brule river land grant. He has already secured one from the committee upon the bill forfeiting the Marquette, Houghton & Ontonagon grant.

The losses by the recent upper peninsula forest fires are reckoned at from $60,000 to $80,000. Many of the settlers who were burned out will require help in order to rebuild, and if any body feels like contributing, Horace J. Stevens of Ishpeming, who is familiar with the situation, would probably be willing to forward the money.

Eighteen hundred people participated in the Gratiot county soldiers' and sailors' camp fire at Alma.

The large, new 100-foot barn, with 30 tons of hay, belonging to C. Holmes, three and a half miles west of Bronson, burned the other night.

Kelley Brothers and Colby of Fair Plains, Berrien county, will rebuild their trout dam, which gave way a short time ago, and stock the pond again. This time they will build a brick wall laid in native lime. The trout pond was a decided success, and the trout at two years old were as large as trout in ordinary ponds at three years old. This was owing to the great amount of natural food in the pond and to the healthy surroundings of the fish. It is calculated by these gentlemen that at least 5,000 fish escaped by the breakage of the dam.

Hon. James E. White, probate judge of Luce county, has resigned.

Railroad Commissioner Rich is making a critical inspection of the upper peninsula roads to see if they need any official attention.

John Drahner, a Hadley farmer, has begun suit against Lapeer for $10,000 for alleged damages sustained while driving on the streets there by falling into a waterworks excavation.

A few days ago a man was detected in the act of passing something through the bars at the Jackson prison. He was frightened away, and a few hours later several dynamite bombs were discovered in a house near the prison used as a rendezvous for crooks. It is thought the plot is being worked in the interest of Billy Burns from Detroit.

Hon. G. V. N. Lothrop, ex-minister to Russia, was tendered a reception by the citizens of Detroit upon his return to that city.

Effect of weather for week ending Sept. 1 has not been favorable to growing crops. Warm days and lack of rain has ripened corn and potatoes prematurely, and has been injurious to pastures. Rainfall in Branch county on Aug. 27 was very beneficial to growing crops and their condition is much improved. Frost was generally reported Aug. 28, and slight damage was done in northern section to buckwheat and vines. Plowing is progressing slowly, as ground is too dry for good turning.

The Morton manufacturing company of Romeo, will soon occupy the large building recently vacated by the Romeo carriage company. A force of about eighty-five men will be set at work as soon as they are settled.

The elevator burned recently at Romeo is being rebuilt as fast as possible.

The Bay City Tribune says: There was one young man more sorely disappointed at the outcome of the examination for the West Point cadetship than all others. It was the grandson of the noted Indian Chief Petoskey. He is studying at the agricultural college at Lansing and his heart was set on capturing the cadetship. He is a resident of Petoskey and therefore had a right to compete, for which he had been making special preparations. But he did not appear, and the cause is a sad one, for it probable ends all his hopes in that direction. Two days before the examination he was at work with a straw cutter and had two of his fingers cut and badly mutilated, and the physician says they will probably be stiff when the wounds heal. He is a stout, manly fellow, proud of his blood, ambitious and studious. He heads all the students of the college in athletic sports and carried off all the prizes at the recent contest. It is a great pity he could not have entered for the cadetship and realized his ambition to become a soldier.

The new Potts railroad, from Potts' headquarters to Oscoda, is to be built. It will be thirty-five miles long, narrow guage, and is expected to be in operation within a year. Several branches will be extended from the main line and a large amount of fine country and excellent agricultural lands opened up. The cost of the road will be about $150,000.

September 3 was observed as labor day in nearly all of the principal cities throughout the country. In Cleveland alone was there any disturbance. In that city about a score of anarchists were in the procession, and hoisted the red flag and declared that they owed no allegiance to the United States flag. Indignant workingmen hauled the flag down and trampled it in the dust. The anarchists were driven from the procession and five of them arrested and lodged in the station house.

DETROIT MARKETS.

WHEAT, White	$ 94	@	94¾
" Red	96	@	97¼
CORN, per bu	46	@	47
OATS, " "	26	@	[illegible]
BARLEY	1 15	@	1 20
MALT	95	@	1 00
TIMOTHY SEED	2 50	@	2 55
CLOVER SEED, per bag	4 50	@	4 70
FEED	13 00	@	18 50
FLOUR—Michigan patent	5 00	@	5 20
Michigan roller	4 60	@	4 70
Minnesota patent	5 00	@	5 05
Minnesota bakers'	4 50	@	4 60
Rye per bu	50	@	55
APPLES, per bbl	1 75	@	2 00
BEANS, picked	1 75	@	1 90
" unpicked	1 25	@	1 50
BEESWAX	28	@	30
BUTTER	18	@	19
CHEESE, per lb	9	@	9½
DRIED APPLES, per lb	6½	@	7
EGGS, per doz	15	@	16
HONEY, per lb	14	@	16
HOPS per lb	13	@	18
HAY, per ton, clover	8 00	@	10 00
timothy	10 00	@	11 00
MALT, per bu	90	@	1 05
ONIONS, per bbl	2 00	@	3 10
POTATOES, per bu	30	@	35
PEARS, per bbl	3 00	@	5 00
PEACHES, per bu	1 50	@	[illegible]
PLUMS, per bu	2 25	@	3 00
POULTRY—Chickens, live	9	@	10
Geese	7	@	8
Turkeys	10	@	11
Ducks per lb	8	@	9
PROVISIONS—Mess Pork	15 25	@	15 50
Family	17 25	@	17 50
Extra mess beef	7 50	@	7 75
Lard	7	@	8
Hams	11	@	12
Shoulders	8	@	8½
Bacon	10	@	10½
Tallow, per lb	3	@	3½
HIDES—Green City per lb	3½	@	4½
Cured	4	@	5½
Salted	6½		
Sheep skins, wool	50	@	1 00

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Market slow, 10 to 15c lower; steers $3 3 @$5 60; stockers and feeders, $2 10@$3 0; cows, bulls and mixed, $1 40 @$3 00; Texans and Indians, $1 90@$3 50; Western rangers, $3 50@4 75.

HOGS—Market slow but steady; mixed, $5 90@6 40; heavy, $ @$6 60; light, $5 80@6 35; skips, $4@5 70.

SHEEP—Receipts, 8,000; shipments, 2,500; market active, 10c lower; natives, $2 65@4 25; Western, shorn, $3 30@3 60; Texans, shorn, $2 75@3 35; lambs, $3 50@$5.

The Drovers' Journal's special cablegram from London quotes American cattle in heavy supply. The demand is weak. Prices are barely steady. best steers, 12½c per pound, estimated dead weight.

WOOL.

Fleeces—Fine, 20@21c; medium, 14@25c; coarse, 22@25c; unwashed, unmerchantable, cotted and black, ⅓ off; bucks, ½ off.

YELLOW JACK SPREADING.

Jacksonville, Fla., Must be Depopulated.

The situation in Jacksonville, Florida, grows worse. New cases of fever are being reported almost hourly.

A number of patients have been discharged, but the record of discharges is no longer kept by the board of health. It can hardly be said that the disease is more malignant than a week ago. Except for the yellow fever flags and badges of the sanitary police, strangers passing through the streets would hardly notice anything more than an extraordinary summer dullness. Intense indignation was caused there by the action of the surgeon-general in stopping refugees from going to healthy points to which they have been invited, and requiring that all be detained at quarantine camp.

President Daniels of the citizens' auxiliary sanitary association telegraphed a vigorous protest, asserting that many of our best citizens would prefer to keep their wives and children in the stricken city rather than subject them to exposure without protection of a mixed quarantine camp, where there is no hospital for the suitable care of any taken with the fever.

Two hundred rough frame houses, it is stated, will be built for a quarantine camp. Efforts will be made to depopulate the city as soon as possible.

Mrs. George Westinghouse of Pittsburg is credited with an income of $7,000 a month from natural gas stocks alone.

GENERAL NEWS.

Judge Farrell has decided against the Iowa state railroad commissioners in the enforcement of their rate schedule, under a recent act of the legislature. The commissioners appeal to the supreme court.

Judge Harlan has decided in the case of a steamer that fired some sawdust by sparks from her stack and caused a loss of $110,000, that the limit of liability of ship-owners to the value of the vessel does not apply to damage done by the vessel on land.

A band of 150 well-armed Sioux are on the war path in Wyoming.

In one day recently 1,105 immigrants arrived at Castle Garden.

Consul Morton, who has been at Callonia, Uruguay, for 19 years, says that the recent emancipation of slaves in Brazil was a sop to southern provinces which are ripe for revolution. Mr. Morton believes that with the death of Dom Pedro there will be a revolution, and an attempt to create a republic.

Gen. C. P. Buckingham died at Chicago recently, aged 80. He attained considerable celebrity as a professor at West Point. During the civil war he was prominent in the conscription. Since 1873 he had been president of the Chicago steel works company.

William M. Lloyd of Altoona, Pa., died Aug. 30, at the age of 71 years. The announcement recalls the bankruptcy proceedings into which Mr. Lloyd was forced by the panic of 1873. At the time his assets were among the millions and his liabilities about four times as much as his assets. There were over one thousand creditors. Lloyd was well known throughout the country, and his name was coupled with many business transactions owing to his credit and standing.

General Master Workman Powderly demands that the report of the Pacific railroad commission be made public.

The federal treasury department has admitted free of duty, a piano owned by a music teacher, as a "tool of trade," but has refused to admit another piano free, under the same provision, as a "tool of trade" of a piano tuner.

East St. Louis people cannot meet the interest on their city debt and a $1,000,000 judgment against the city, as the treasury has been plundered by political rings. They will therefore issue bonds or surrender their city charter and reorganize under the state law.

Charles H. Litchman, general secretary of the K. of L., has written to Chairman Quay, telling why, in his opinion, the republican party is better than the democratic, and offering his services "in any position or capacity that may be desirable or useful." Litchman has also tendered his resignation as secretary of the K. of L., and the resignation has been accepted.

The statement of the internal revenue bureau shows that the consumption of liquors and beer in this country has decreased nearly one half per capita within 47 years.

High license in Minnesota has been highly satisfactory. Saloons have been decreased nearly one half, and the consumption of liquors in proportion. Low groceries have been closed, and the traffic is under better supervision.

Fire from a natural gas pipe ignited a dwelling at Fostoria, O., and 17 buildings were burned down, nearly destroying the town.

The Sioux Indians who left their reservation have returned, and the troops have been withdrawn. There is no apprehension of further trouble.

Rev. W. F. Davis of Boston has served ten months in prison for preaching on the Common, and will be released on account of good behavior. John L. Sullivan, who beats his wife and whips newsboys, still has the freedom of the city.

The sugar bounties convention has adjourned, eight nations having signed the agreement to abolish bounties for ten years succeeding September 1, 1891.

A movement is on foot among prominent Knights of Labor to prevent any but American citizens joining that order. If the scheme works it will reduce the membership 60 per cent.

A mysterious disease, having some of the characteristics of typhoid and malarial fevers, is raging in Caldwell, Ohio. Whole families have been attacked, and within a month 25 deaths have occurred. Business is paralyzed, and the physicians are nearly all worn out. The scourge is believed to be the result of bad drainage.

At Westfield, N. J., William H. Morse, M. D., alleged chemical expert, who has for four years dealt in false chemical analyses of new medicines, fell into a trap laid by Anthony Comstock's society and has been arrested on the charge of using the mails for purposes of fraud.

The American party, which nominated Gen. James L. Curtis for president, has established headquarters at 17 Broadway, N. Y., and issued an address calling upon "all true lovers of our country, native or foreign born, to put themselves in communication with the executive committee."

Engulfed in Burning Oil.

A terrible accident occurred the other morning at the tank farm near Oil Center, twelve miles north of Findlay, Ohio, in which three men lost their lives. One of the immense iron tanks of the Buckeye Lime company, containing at the time 20,000 barrels of oil, sprung a leak early in the morning and a number of men were set to work calking the seams. Some of them were working on a scaffold. Suddenly the tank burst from the pressure of oil and gas inside. The oil was thrown in every direction with great violence, carrying the men with it. In a moment the whole mass of oil was in a flame, catching fire from a blacksmith's forge which stood near. No assistance could reach the helpless men, as the fire raged with enormous violence, and great waves of flames swept for hundreds of feet in every direction.

The fire raged for several hours, making an awe-inspiring sight, and rolling up volumes of smoke which spread over the city, obscuring the sky. At a late hour in the afternoon the bodies of the three men were recovered. They were charred beyond recognition and no one appears to know their names. Nothing was left on their clothing to indicate who they were. Even the buttons crumbled at the touch. The skeletons of a cow, hog and dog were also found where the fire had engulfed them.

Six Killed and Others Injured.

The boiler of the Perry stove works at South Pittsburg, Tenn., exploded on the 4th inst., instantly killing Charles Taylor, the superintendent of the works; J. B. Mills, a machinist; M. Donovan, foreman of the mounting department; Geo. N. Carter, a leading jeweler of the town; A. M. Plumb of Winchester, Tenn., and Wm. Watson, a molder. Wm. Gross, a machinist, and Rock Scruggs, a molder, were both fatally injured and will die. A large piece of boiler was thrown end over end a distance of 100 yards, and tearing a hole through the side of Dieten's store, landed against the opposite wall. Many smaller pieces were thrown a distance of several hundred yards. The boiler and engine were in the corner of the molding room and the whole side of the building was torn away for a distance of forty feet. Had the explosion occurred half an hour later the loss of life would have been appalling. The cause of the explosion is a mystery. Perry's stove works moved to South Pittsburg from Albany, N. Y., a year ago and only a few months ago were entirely destroyed by fire. They were just getting in running order again.

Would Cripple Canada.

The yearly average of merchandise exported from Canada through the United States to foreign countries, and of imports through United States ports carried in bond to Canada, is $36,796,000. During the past year 28 per cent of the total trade of the Dominion with foreign countries passed through the United States territory in bond. If forced to rely on the St. Lawrence in summer and the intercolonial railway in winter for transportation of her merchandise, the result would be disastrous to her foreign trade.

Fifteen Sailors Drowned.

The steamer Bratsberg, coal laden, from Sidney to Montreal, struck a rock at Cape Chatte, and was run ashore at St. Felicites the same night. Capt. Neilson wired to Quebec for help, but the fearful storm induced him to take his passengers ashore, leaving the crew of 17 men. The steamer began to break up, and the men attempted to go ashore in the boats, but were upset and 15 of the sailors drowned.

The Wheat Shortage.

It now seems to be a fact that the old world needs from seventy million to eighty million bushels of wheat more than the harvests of the year will produce. To put it in another way, the countries which always have to buy wheat must this year buy some three hundred and seventy million bushels, while the countries raising more than they consume will have about two hundred and ninety-five million to sell.

Sarah E. Toucey of New York is the inventor of a grape-seed extractor.

A novelty in underwear is the skirt of striped lawn woven to imitate drawn work.

Loretta B. Weld of Massachusetts is the inventor of three different preparations of quinia.

PENSION STATISTICS.

Figures from the Report of the Commissioner of Pensions.

General Capital News.

The annual report of the commissioner of pensions shows that there were during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1888, added to the pension rolls, 62,280 new names, the largest annual increase in the history of the bureau, making a total of 452,557 pensioners on the rolls at the close of the year. During the same period 15,730 were dropped from the rolls on account of death and various other causes, leaving a net increase to the rolls of 46,550 names.

One million one hundred and sixty-six thousand nine hundred and twenty-six dollars in pension claims have been filed since 1861, and 737,200 claims of all classes have been allowed since that date. The amount paid for pensions since 1861 has been $963,086,444. The aggregate annual value of pensions is $56,707,221. The amount of pensions paid during the year was $78,775,862, an increase over the previous year of $5,308,280. It cost a fraction less than 4 per cent of the total expenditures of the bureau for disbursing.

The highest number of claims on account of the late war was received from Ohio. Indiana followed next, then New York and Pennsylvania, and from Montana, Utah and South Carolina none were received. Up to June 30 last 26,581 claims were filed under the Mexican pension act, 19,788 being survivors and 6,793 widows. All completed cases of this class, 16,529 survivors and 5,195 widows' cases, have been allowed. The rejections were 2,321 survivors and 601 widows' claims, mainly because the applicant had not arrived at the required age of 62 years.

The total number of special pension acts which have become laws from 1861 to 1885 is 2,001, and from 1885 to 1888, during the present administration, 1,369, a total of 3,370. Of the latter 191 were vetoed for reasons fully set forth in the President's messages from time to time.

The house committee on manufactures has decided so proceed with the investigation of trusts.

President Cleveland's letter of acceptance will be issued as soon as he returns from the fishing trip, which he is now enjoying.

In the seal fisheries investigation at Washington, T. F. Morgan, an employe of the Alaskan company, said that if the United States opened up that part of Behring Sea ceded to the United States by Russia as a public highway, the result would be disastrous to the seal fisheries.

The forthcoming annual report of the commssioner of the general land office will show that during the year ended June 30, 1888, there were made 59,095 cash land entries of all classes, aggregating 5,907,254 acres, for which the government received $11,203,071.

The minority report on the investigation of the government printing office has been presented. The majority report, presented a few days ago, made about 80 pages, and the minority report will make fully 70 pages. The minority report charges collusion by the majority, and outrageous violation of all known rules of proceedings to screen Mr. Benedict from the results of his incompetency and partizanship. The majority report practically exonerates the public printer from the charges preferred against him.

The retaliation bill has been reported to the house.

B. J. Hall, commissioner of patents, in his annual report to the secretary of the interior, says that the total number of applications received during the year was 40,177, a decrease of 847. The patents granted and trademarks and labels registered was 22,101, as against 23,217 for last year. The total receipts for the year were $1,122,944, a decrease of $27,102. The expenditures were $953,730, a decrease of $27,914, the surplus being $169,264. On June 30 last there were 7,227 cases on hand awaiting action, as against 7,601 on June 30, 1887.

The bill to give soldiers who served 80 days or more, and were discharged on account of disease contracted in the line of duty the same bounty to which they would have been entitled if discharged for wounds, has been favorably reported.

Advices have been received to the effect that China refuses to ratify the American treaty restricting immigration.

The commissioner of the general land office has decided that a Chinaman cannot make a land entry.

Chairman Barnum has conferred with Congressman Carlisle as to the advisability of meeting Blaine in a joint debate upon the tariff. The speaker expressed himself as willing to do so if the national committee deemed it wise, and dates could be arranged so as not to interfere with his congressional duties. The speaker predicts an adjournment on or before Sept 25.

Public debt statement: Interest bearing debt, $1,017,676,124; debt bearing on which interest has ceased since maturity, $2,619,180; debt bearing no interest, $702,713,500; total, $1,723,008,805; less cash items available for reduction of debt, $461,212,801; net cash in treasury, $107,673,320; decrease during month, $7,324,675; decrease since June 30, 1888, $11,461,974; cash in treasury available for reduction of public debt, $361,212,801; reserved fund, $100,000,000; total cash in treasury as shown by treasurer's general account, $646,973,444.

The president has approved the acts to accept and ratify an agreement made with the Shoshone and Bannock Indians for the surrender and relinquishment to the United States of a portion of the Fort Hill reservation, Idaho, for the purpose of erecting a town thereon, and for the grant of right of way through the reservation to the Utah & Northern railway company.

In the house the other day, Mr. Scott asked unanimous consent to introduce for present consideration a bill supplementary to an act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to the Chinese, approved May 6, 1882. Section 1 provides that from and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for any Chinese laborer who shall at any time heretofore have been or who may be now or hereafter be a resident within the United States, and who shall have departed or shall depart therefrom and shall not have returned before the passage of this act, to return to the United States. Section 2 provides that no certificates of identity provided for in the fourth and fifth sections of the act to which this is a supplement shall hereafter be issued; and every certificate heretofore issued in pursuance thereof is hereby declared void and of no effect; and the Chinese laborer claiming admission by virtue thereof shall not be permitted to enter the United States. Section 3 provides that all duties prescribed and liabilities, penalties and forfeitures prescribed by the second, tenth, eleventh and twelfth sections of the act, to which this is a supplement, are hereby extended and made applicable to the provisions of this act. Section 4 provides that all such part or parts of the act, to which this is a supplement, as are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. After debate the bill was passed without a division. The bill met with opposition in the senate and the advisability of the proposed action was discussed at great length.

An order has been issued by the war department ordering paymasters to continue their journeys to give the soldiers their August pay, under a resolution adopted by congress.

ROASTED IN THE RUINS.

Seven Firemen Buried Under a Mass of Brick and Iron.

One of the most disastrous fires, both to life and property that has occurred in Baltimore for many years broke out at an early hour the other morning at No. 109 South Sharp street, and spreading with great rapidity on either side, destroyed seven fine four-story iron and brick front buildings on Sharp street, and the back buildings of nearly the whole row of houses on Pratt street, between Sharp and Hanover. The north wall of building No. 109 Sharp street collapsed and buried nine of the firemen. Two of them—Alex and John Kelly—got out alive, but badly injured. Seven were killed.

The origin of the fire will probably never be known, but it is supposed that spontaneous combustion was the cause. It is known that a system of electric lighting was introduced in the building recently, and it was only tried the night of the fire, and it may be that defective insulation started the flames and the combustible nature of the contents of the building served as food for the destroying elements.

The fire was discovered by an intoxicated man who stopped to rest on the steps of a building opposite. There was considerable delay in getting the alarm, and when the engines arrived the building was in flames from cellar to roof. The fireworks stored in the upper floors at once began to explode and with the rapidly spreading flames presented the grandest spectacle ever seen in the city.

The explosion that caused the collapse of the building, by which the firemen lost their lives, was the result of the ignition of some chemicals, and was so sudden that though the men were warned they had not time to make their escape. The losses will aggregate about $1,000,000.

MILLER FOR GOVERNOR.

New York Republicans Nominate the Ex-Senator.

The New York republican state convention was held in Saratoga August 28. Gen. Benjamin F. Tracey was elected temporary chairman, and on taking the chair he addressed the convention at considerable length.

At the conclusion of Gen. Tracey's speech the following resolution was adopted:

In view of the recent development before the Congressional investigating committee, showing the abuse of our naturalization and immigration laws, we desire and urge a thorough revision of said laws in order that our country and our fellow-citizens may be protected from the pauper and criminal classes of other countries.

Gen. George S. Batchelor became permanent chairman of the convention upon its re-assembling. The convention, after a resolution of respect to Sheridan's memory, proceeded to nominations for governor. State Senator George B. Sloan, who began life as a tow boy and who now is a millionaire miller and banker at Oswego, first gained the floor and placed in nomination Hon. Warner Miller. There was no other nomination and Mr. Miller was chosen by acclamation, and pending the candidate's appearance the presidential electors were chosen. Wm. H. Seward, of Auburn, N. Y., son of the late secretary of state, is one of the electors-at-large.

Upon being presented, amid cheers, to the convention ex-Senator Miller, after accepting the nomination and thanking the delegates for it, said he accepted only because he felt that the republicans of this state were then and now a unit for the coming contest. He congratulated his colleagues that the coming campaign was to be one of principles and the party was to be congratulated that the Chicago convention had given a platform of broadest Americanism, and one which distinctly announced the doctrine of protection.

The speaker referred to the liquor interest when he used these words: "We are this fall, in this state, to submit the question to all the people of this state as to whether any particular class of our citizens shall by combination and by use of vast sums of money be able to make their boasts that they control and own the state government in any of its departments. We hold that the government should not be controlled by cliques or classes for the advantage of profit and class, but that our government, as it is a government of the people and for the people, that it should be carried on by the people (applause), and we shall ask the people of this state this fall whether or not any class of our people shall be permitted to control the state government in the interest of any portion of our people less than the whole people."

Mr. Miller closed with great feeling, in these words:

"You will not forget, many of you, that at Chicago we pledged our brethren of the other republican states that we would make one grand effort this fall to restore the republican party to supremacy in this state. Do you propose to make that pledge good, fellow republicans? If you are to make that pledge good it will necessitate bringing out every republican vote in the state. It will necessitate the increasing of republican majorities in every republican county in this state from St. Lawrence to the borders of Pennsylvania, and from Long Island to Niagara. I appeal to you to know whether or no you propose to make this pledge good. You have chosen me as your leader in this state. I have but a single word more to say to you, and that is that I here and now pledge you that in the position in which you have placed me I will not rest until the polls close, and that whatever of power or ability I may have as a political leader shall be used for the accomplishment of this much desired result."

Out of four candidates for lieutenant-governor Col. S. V. R. Cruger, one of the old Knickerbockers of New York city, was chosen and ratified by acclamation, and with tremendous cheers and shouts for "the soldier ticket" Judge Rumsey was nominated for judge of the court of appeals.

Col. Cruger thanked the convention for his nomination and ex-Congressman Sereno E. Payne, of Auburn, presented the platform, which accepts and approves the declaration of the Chicago convention, and heartily ratifies the nomination of Harrison and Morton; praises the republican senators for rejecting the fisheries treaty and criticises President Cleveland's message thereon; lauds the efforts of the republicans in the state legislature of 1888, and censures Gov. Hill for vetoing a measure "aiming to purify the ballot," and for other vetoes; demands further legislation to prohibit the influx of pauper and criminal immigrants, and desires a revision of the naturalization laws; favors the enactment of prison laws which, while providing for the employment of prisoners, shall prevent the product of their labor from competing with that of wage-workers; indorses the policy of improving the canals.

The reading of the platform by Chairman S. E. Payne was received in silence by the convention, but when Chairman Bacheler put the question there was a terrific shout of "ayes," and the convention adjourned sine die.

FATAL HOTEL FIRE.

Six Lives Lost at West Superior, Wisconsin.

At an early hour on the morning of September 2, flames were discovered in the American house, corner of Third and Tower avenues, in West Superior, Wis. When the department arrived the entire building was a mass of flames, and the inadequate supply of water rendered the efforts of the firemen almost useless. The air was filled with the screams of frantic men and women trying to escape from the burning building, many of them being clad only in their night clothes.

The building was a frame structure, and more in the nature of a boarding house than hotel. The inflammable, ricketry old shell was soon entirely destroyed, the men in the meantime directing their efforts to saving the adjoining houses.

When the ruins began to smoulder water was played upon them as rapidly as possible, and the search for the missing began. In three different places bodies were found, charred beyond recognition. Six men were lost altogether, as all who were in the building have been accounted for except these. Their names will probably never be known. The landlord never had a register, and simply noted down the rooms which were occupied each day. Besides, the guests were strangers, the hotel patronage being a class of lumbermen and miners who were bound north and generally stopped only one night.

The cause of the fire was attributed to a lamp explosion in a room on the second floor, occupied by two men who had been out late and had returned under the influence of liquor. They said they first knew of the fire when they saw the flames through the transom of their room. Their escape was miraculous, and all were badly burned.

The servants were so horrified at the situation that it was with difficulty they were forced to leave the house. One man who had returned drunk, barely escaped death by being carried out by his room-mate. Others were saved by jumping into blankets held by men on the street below.

FACT AND FANCY.

Persimmons were selling recently in the St. Louis market for $1.50 to $2 a bushel.

The clock of St. Quentin's, at Mayence, has struck the hour regularly for 509 years.

An ocean cable, to be the longest in the world, is to be laid from Canada to Australia, a distance of 7,500 miles.

The reports from Wheeling, W. Va., and East Liverpool, O., are to the effect that the potteries are running fairly, with plenty of orders.

The various unions of San Jose, Cal., have organized a Federation of Labor, the Cigarmakers' Union having taken the initiative.

It was very slippery walking when, according to his own account, a native of the Emerald Isle fell down four times before he could get up once.

Rice and Griffin, sash and blind manufacturers of Worcester, Mass., have divided $1,476 among their employes as their share of the profits of 1887.

The New York State arbitrators and the General Executive Board of the Knights of Labor have settled the differences in the shoe trade at Port Jarvis.

"Pot luck," my son, is when you hold nine elevated and boost it up on the other fellow with a monarchic trio, and the other fellow neglects to materialize.

Carpenters' Union No. 343, of Portland, Me., fines members who are absent three consecutive meetings 25 cents, and 10 cents for each succeeding meeting.

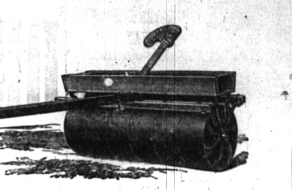
"You don't mean to say that you understand French, Tommy?" "Oh, yes, I do. When ma and pa speaks French at tea, I know I'm to have a powder."

The carpenters of Chicago threaten to tie up all building operations unless their demands are conceded to by the contractors. They demand 35 cents an hour.

There are 9,134 journeymen carpenters and 2,420 apprentices in Scotland. The Society of Associated Carpenters has been in existence 26 years and reports a membership of 3,857.

----BIRMINGHAM FIELD----

ROLLERS!



NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY THIS WELL KNOWN ROLLER!

Six sections, wrought iron shaft, comfortable seat, strong, durable, effective.

PRICE $25

Call and see us at once.

BIRMINGHAM TACK Co.,

Birmingham, Mich.

FACT AND FANCY.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher will be the guest this summer of Mr. H. W. Sage, at Ithaca.

Rev. J. A. M. Chapman, of Philadelphia, will probably become president of Dickinson college.

Justice Bradley, of the Supreme Court of the United States, has gone up into Vermont for a vacation.

Miss Ella Leben has been elected superintendent of city schools in Portland, Oregon, and will receive $3,000.

Mr. Gladstone gave to a poor church the sum received for his recent contributions to *The Nineteenth Century*.

M. Houzeau, the eminent Belgian astronomer and naturalist, and ex director of the Brussels observatory, is dead.

William Henry Hurlbert, formerly editor of the New York *World*, has written a book, entitled "Ireland Under Coercion."

Dr. Edward Everett Hale is practically the head of the Chautauqua Assembly at Weirs, N. H., and is lecturing there daily.

Mrs. Col. Lamont, her two children and a nurse have arrived at Bar Harbor. The Colonel will join his family in a few days.

Washington society is looking forward to the coming of Chief Justice Fuller's eight accomplished daughters with much interest.

Mr. Price, of Macon, Ga., the other day killed a big wild turkey with his pistol, and the bird was eighty yards off and up a tree.

The female editor of a temperance paper at Effingham, Ill., publishes every month a list of the men seen drunk in the streets of the town.

Sturgeons of enormous sieze are occasionally caught in the Caspian sea, some of them measuring 20 feet in length and weighing 2,500 pounds.

W. K. Vanderbilt has bought 1,000 acres near Ashville, N. C., and will erect a handsome residence to be ready for occupancy next summer.

Four gentlemen came to Gainesville, Ga., not long since, to kill alligators at the sink. In twenty days they killed 600, an average of thirty per day.

Bismarck has given evidence that he is still a skillful marksman. While practising with a rifle at 120 yards recently he hit the bull's eye every time.

The highest classical honor in the London University has this year for the first time fallen to a woman, Miss Mary Louisa Worley of Girton College.

Kaiser William's favorite flower is said to be the blue lobelia, of which masses were used in decorations at the dinner he attended in St. Petersburg.

The Meade Center (Kansas) *Republican* makes the statement that bricks are being used in the new opera house at that place that cost $6.50 apiece.

Frau Wagner appeared at a public performance for the first time since her husband's death when the "Meistersinger" was given at Bayreuth last week.

In Chicago a considerate young Swede sailor who was tired of life committed suicide in a Mother Hubbard in order that a friend might have his clothes.

Fisher Thompson, a student in Boston, stole 250 silk and 200 cotton handkerchiefs from numerous persons before justice cut short his career of kleptomania.

Locusts are so attentive to crops in Indiana that farmers in certain sections of the state have found it advisable to cover the most valuable trees with musquito netting.

London has fewer inhabitants to the house than any other of the great cities of Europe. Vienna has the most persons to the house, having five times as many as London.

The recent debate on the Mills bill consumed twenty-three days and eight evening sessions of the House of Representatives. The total number of speeches made was 151.

Miss Lucy A. Plympton, of Albany, will be a delegate from the Dana Geological Society of that city to the International Geological Congress, which meets at London in September.

The champion fish liar lives at Ironwood, Mich. He tells of a party of four trouters who caught 3,000 trout in three days, gave 250 to their friends and ate the others—2,750.

Washington Territory leads every state and territory in the Union in the yield of potatoes per acre. The average yield is 152 bushels, while Oregon produces 122 bushels.

The first things taught Alaskan children are to dance, shoot the bow and arrow, and to smoke. It is a common thing to see a mother take the child from her breast and give it her pipe.

A Tampa (Fla.) orange grower experimented in a small way with packing oranges in dry sand, and finds that some thus treated the first of last December have kept as fresh as if just picked.

A colored preacher near Macon, Georgia, has committed to memory the entire bible. A few years ago he was unable to read, and claims that his knowledge has been revealed to him in a vision.

Gen. Boulanger, on a pension of $1,600 a year, pays $2,400 a year rent and spends $30,000 a year on himself and an equal amount on the establishment of his wife and two daughters at Versailles.

Mrs. Rebecca Taylor, mother of the late Bayard Taylor, though in her nineties, is a well preserved old lady, and visited West Chester the other day to see the handsome memorial window to her son in the new Public Library.

"A native author called Roe" was Matthew Arnold's sneering allusion to the American novelist. Mr. Roe accepted the designation, and uses it as the title of his autobiographical sketch to be published in the October Lippincott's.

Tony Hart, who is at present an inmate of the Worchester (Mass.) Insane Hospital, acts as umpire nearly every day for the base ball game the doctors and attendants have on the grounds, and he is said to make a "first-class one."

In drilling glass, stick a piece of stiff clay or putty on the part where you wish to make the hole. Make a hole in the putty the size you want this hole, pour a little molten lead, when, unless it is very thick glass, the piece will immediately drop out.

The contract for the Sault Ste. Marie water power canal has been awarded to McArthur Bros., of Chicago, for $250,000. The canal will be three miles long, will furnish 800,000 horse power, and will make the Soo a rival of Minneapolis in the milling business.

Little Arthur Herberts, of Chicago, is a marvel of erudition for his years. Although only ten years old he has read through the entire Iliad of Homer in the original Greek, and can translate a passage from any part of it accurately and without hesitation.

There are to be two dramatizations of Amelie Rives' (Mrs. Chandler's) novel, "The Quick and the Dead," in the field next season. Mr. C. W. Durant announces that he has secured a copyrighted version with which the Fifth Avenue theater will be reopened, Miss Estelle Clayton being the star. And now Miss Rose Levere states that she has just completed another, which she contemplates producing during her starring tour, subject to the approval of Mrs. Chandler and her publishers.

A Monopoly of Ease.

Customer: "But this suit has a second-hand look about it; it looks as though somebody had worn it." Mr. Isenheimer: "Off gourse; I haf worn dod suit fife mondts myselluf already. We always do id mit all our fine cloding; it dakes away dot awkward sense of newness und gloss und stiffness dot a man so dislikes, and wears oud der greases. We always wears our fine goots undil dey get a feeling of easiness for der gustomer. Dot's a specialdy off our house."—*Burdette.*

The Honest Peddler.

"Are your berries good? asked a lady of a street hawker standing at the door. "Not very good, I'm afraid, ma'am," said the hawker frankly. "I'll take six boxes," said the lady in extreme surprise. "Probably the berries aren't worth the quarter you ask for them, but it's worth a quarter any time to hear a hawker tell the truth."—*Somerville Journal.*

Hard on the Cook.

Col. Blood (grinding his teeth): "Maj. Gore has challenged me to fight a duel; we are to meet in Death Hollow at 5 this afternoon." Mrs. Blood: "Oh, colonel, and I had arranged to have dinner at 5 o'clock; Bridget wants to go out."—*New York Sun.*