THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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NEWS OF THE STATE.

DIVERS MATTERS OF CURRENT INTEREST IN BRIEF FORM.

Hillsdale's Alleged Wife Murderer Dying—Shooting Scrape Near Stoughton.—Brief Items.

Sat Down on the Choir.

Rev. Thomas H. Barr, the late pastor of the First Presbyterian church, at Kalamazoo, caused quite a sensation by stopping in the middle of his sermon and requesting the members of the choir to stop rustling the leaves of their books. He said he never had allowed prayer to be interrupted and never would. When the prayer was over he noticed smiles on the faces of the members of the choir, the child said sarcastically that his remarks seemed to amuse them. Personally he could stand the insult; he declared, but he would not allow the church's God to be insulted. Mr. Barr is the man whom the other ministers at Boston, Vt., took to task for attending a circus during a revival.

An Historic Personage Insane.

Capt. Chris Rath, who hanged Mrs. Surratt and the other conspirators in Washington, was suddenly bereft of reason on the run to Jackson with the mail train. He has been employed for five years between Grand Rapids and Jackson, and made the latter place his headquarters. It had been noticed he did not leave the mail off and an investigation found him in the car surrounded by the bags, staring fiercely around him. He was sent off to Washington at the close of the war and retained a vivid recollection of the hanging of the conspirators.

Romance in Real Life.

The observatory building near Kalamazoo, so long occupied by H. Jones, of Burlington, has been removed and it brings to gossip a romantic tale of years ago. Jones, when a young man was a brilliant lawyer in New York, but disappointment in love blighted his life. It appears that his chosen fair one was married soon after his own father and he left New York, located in Michigan, became a country squire, and an observatory was built on his estate daily weather reports to Washington. He has been dead several years and now his observatory is gone.

May-Escape Punishment.

Dr. Fogiesong, of Waldron, confined at Hillsdale in the insane asylum for the wife murder, was stricken with apoplexy a few days ago. He ate breakfast as usual, and feeling dizzy he went to his cell to lie down and asked for a drink. When the attendants took it to him they found him speechless. He remained so all day. The doctors say there is no hope of his recovery. His examination was to have been resumed and finished in the justice court at once.

Bay County's Arrears.

Attorney General Maynard applied to the supreme court for an order directing the treasurer of Bay county to show cause why a mandamus should not be issued to compel said county to pay the auditor-general $115,000 state taxes claimed to be due and unpaid. Auditor Dow of Michigan is for unpaid state taxes of 1880 and 1890, the balance having fallen due on the 10th inst. It is understood that the county claims to have a counter claim against the state and will fight the case to the last extremity.

Serious Shooting Affray.

Jerry Shanahan and John Furley tried to force their way into the house of John Yost at the Franklin mine, near Houghton, and during the fight that followed both were shot. Shanahan died in his cabin right breast and is very serious. John Battiestone, an Italian tough, has been arrested charged with the shooting. Patrick Dalton is also under arrest under suspicion of having a hand in the deed. The saloon is one of a number of dives running day and night without license.

Epworth Leagues Convention.

The Epworth league convention of Detroit district held its regular session at the M. E. church at Wyandotte. A special train brought in 440 delegates from all parts of the district. A general reception was held and a banquet and supper was served. Twelve hundred numerous, which were responded to by a number of the leading presidents of the Epworth league societies of this district.

MICHIGAN STATE ITEMS.

The big university now has 2,640 students enrolled.

Iosco, Ogemaw and Arenac county farmers intend to hold a tri-county fair.

Levi Hammond, a Muskegon burglar, goes to Ionia prison for three and a half.

The Holmes-Steger and Brown building at Hudson have been gutted by fire. Loss, $3,000.

Saginaw's council has been petitioned to put safety gates on all bridges spanning the river.

The Potter house at Lexington, Monday morning, early, burned. Loss, $3,000; insurance, $1,000.

Carl Carlsen has been declared guilty of the murder of Husted at Petoskey. The jury was out 14 hours.

An Eau Claire man has a profane hen that doesn't believe in Sabbath observance. On Sunday she always lays an extra large egg.

Some one broke into the brass band's headquarters at Stockbridge and smashed the bass drum. A purse will be raised for him.

Last fall a mail pouch was stolen from a carrier near St. Clair. The other day it was found in a corn field, cut open on one side.

Unadilla no longer has a dam by a mill site, but has a mill by a dam site. The barrier that was washed away will be replaced.

Tom Sherman, of Grand Traverse, has severed his connection with the pension bureau at Washington, and will return to his home.

There are 22,000,000 feet of lumber on the docks at Cheboygan, 3,000,000 less than last year. The stock of logs exceeds 125,000,000 feet.

Albion college is getting in line with strong foot ball and base ball teams. The foot ballers will play the M. A. A. team in Detroit April 15.

The dancing nephrs at Saginaw that cantered around chimney and window sashes at a 66-mile-an-hour trip, did from $12,000 to $15,000 damage.

Peter Thomas, colored, who fatally stabbed James Johnson at the Michigan soldiers' home, has been sentenced to Jackson for life.

Two deaf mutes engaged in a prize fight at Charlotte, but the referee doesn't explain how the badly-punished man announced he had enough.

J. C. Brown, of Saginaw, has broken up his 13 camps, and will drive 25,000,000 feet of logs, the most he has driven, and 43,000,000 feet on other streams.

Charles Doud, an Allegan county man, will spend 11 months in jail for driving a spike into a log just to get even with a man against whom he had a grudge.

The Agricultural college is "hoodooed" or "jonahed" in nonsense. Before the diphtheria outbreak the health checked three cases of measles have developed.

A man went to Morenci with five children, their mother being dead three days later he left town and did not return. The children will be sent to the Coldwater school.

Officers raided a gambling room run by Byron Dickinson at Hastings, and secured a basket of poker chips, about $10 in money and other paraphernalia belonging to the room. The gamblers lit out but were followed and hunted together in a little swamp below and were all taken in. Public opinion is with the officers.

J. W. MATHEWS, JR.

J. W. Mathews, of Hersey, has presented the Evart Methodist church with an opera house and several town lots at the latter place. The opera house will be torn down and a church built.

Midland had another experience with poor oil. A lamp exploded and set fire to the house of Mr. Whitman who, with his wife and five children escaped, saving only household goods. The new house was a total loss.

The trolley wire of the electric street railway at Battle Creek, Monday, made the telephone wires, causing the burning out of the switch boards in the telephone office and severely shocking and burning the operators in charge.

The 2-year-old daughter of Wm. Cooper, of Grand Rapids, while playing with a collar button swallowed it. The child died but not notice it until the child began to choke. The child died before assistance could be summoned.

The venerable Susan B. Anthony will visit Michigan to deliver an address during the convention of the Michigan woman suffrage association at Battle Creek, May 4 and 5. The delegates will be welcomed to the city by Marion Wood Upton.

The project of building a road from Bay City to the Tuscola and Huron county coal mines is once more revived. Carl Wulff, the Ohio promoter, has again been hired from, and H. C. Oziens, of Defiance, O., asks for a $50,000 bonus to build the line.

"Uncle Jake" Walker has served 28 consecutive years as assessor of Ypsilanti township, Kent county, and was town clerk for five years, treasurer one year, assessor six years, and has never missed voting in his town since he attained his majority.

The state board of health has received notice from the U. S. marine hospital service grants upon the diphtheria infected steamer Scandia are detained for Detroit, four for Hastings and 17 at Ludington, on the Michigan peninsula. Measures are being taken to protect Michigan citizens.

Sheriff O'Connor, of Menominee county, found a baby in a box on the boat from the passenger car on the Menominee Branch railroad between Norway and Powers. The deceased was a Frenchman named Perrault, just from the woods, and had boarded the train at Iron Mountain. The cause of death is not known.

Mrs. A. A. Smith, of Northport, aged 84, is writing a series of articles for the Grand Traverse Herald, depicting the hardships of a pioneer family in Northern Michigan. The late Rev. George N. Smith, was the first ordained Congregational minister in Michigan, and his entire life was spent in mission work among the Indians.

No Punishment Can Fit the Crime.

Three masked burglars entered the house of John Daly, an aged soldier at Holdsbury, near Ionia, on Monday night. When he refused to give up the cash they bound both his hands and feet, tied him to a chair and began torturing him. They stabbed him in the neck with a knife and held a lamp under his ear, burning that side of his face. The old man still refused to divulge the hiding place of his money and one of the men knocked his senseless. They then ransacked the house, chopped up the door with a hatchet and tore the plaster from the walls, but did not find the money. The gang then went to the house of Miss Alice McDowell, an aged woman, dragged her from bed, tied her to a chair and began torturing her. They stabbed him in the neck with a knife and held a lamp under his ear, burning that side of her face. The old lady still refused to divulge the hiding place of his money and one of the men knocked him senseless. They then ransacked the house, chopped up the door with a hatchet and tore the plaster from the walls, but did not find the money. The gang then went to the house of Miss Alice McDowell, an aged woman, dragged her from bed, tied her to a chair and began torturing her. They stabbed her in the neck with a knife and held a lamp under her ear, burning that side of her face. The old lady still refused to divulge the hiding place of her money and one of the men knocked her