THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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EACH generation has its own problems, its own achievements, its own sorrows and joys. If it is wise it learns something from the past, but having its own life to live it is never wholly and continuously impressed by antecedents.

IF recognized by all that the world has entered upon an epoch in which the victories of peace shall overcome those of war. The greatest statesman of the age ranks as his laurel the glory of having changed his country's policy and made the work of arbitration take the place of war.

NO INCONSIDERABLE part of satisfactory discussion of dinner a is prompt and unobtrusive service. This can be purchased of course. The waiter generally knows his customer and governs his movements by what he considers a just expectation of reward, but the customer of a restaurant is fairly entitled to prompt service equally with clean napery and wholesome food.

BLESSED the boy who has in his father or mother who insists on his mastering a rich, varied or vital command of language, who sends his letters back to him corrected, and with sarcastic queries whether the term "bully" or "tiptop" covers the whole realm of charm in such varied characters and incidents as a pretty little girl playsuit, an ascent of Pike's Peak or a sail on Lake Champlain.

In this free country no social odium should attach to honest work of any kind, and the mistress who views her housemaid as other than a worker for wages, whose obligations end with the rendering of so much work for so much money, is as great a snob as the shopgirl who cuts the acquaintance of an associate for choosing the kitchen to the factory. There is a duty laid upon parents and the public schools in this regard.

"CHARITY," as Richard Whiteing aptly says is "but an ointment for a cancer." If charity opens cheap lodgings and restaurants for working girls, these benefactions enable them to live for less and in the end they will get just that much less for their work. The operation of the iron law of wages pressing the toiler down to the point of bare subsistence is not to be permanently interfered with by the emollients of the humane, however well meant.

THE age is eminently a practical and gain-seeking one. Our education follows the tendency of the age. Literature no longer directs public movements but follows them, and poetry, which has no more intrinsic pecuniary value than music or beauty, suffers. A poem cannot be used as an asset of reserve for public circulation, like a work of art—it can not even be utilized for revenue like a play or a song. And accordingly poetry is neglected.

NO SORT of factory or other absolutely indoor labor compares in essential healthfulness or pay with household labor. The great prizes go to the cooks. The great cooks of the world receive salaries equal to the greatest artists. They are the Pattis of the kitchen. The head cooks of the leading hotels and restaurants receive salaries equalled by no other employees. A good cook in a well-living family can command pay absolutely princely compared with that earned by women in most of the occupations they enter upon. This is going on the reasonable supposition that a woman can make as good a cook as a man.

THE trouble with our present immigration laws is that they place too much stress on the external circumstances of the immigrant and too little on the real quality. The defect could be remedied by the undoubtedly timely suggestion, that an educational restriction be placed on immigration. Education need not be the sole criterion of an immigrant's fitness. Respectable and law-abiding character should accompany it. If these qualities were insisted upon in the case of every immigrant, there is no doubt there would be a vast improvement in the quality of our accessions to population, at the same time that there was a decrease in the quantity.

THE "servant girl" matter must be settled by the abolition of the word "servant," said a Turkish statesman. The first step towards the settlement of the Albanian question is the extermination of the Albanians," and the first step towards the settlement of the "servant" question in this country is the abolition of the words "servant," "service" and "servant girl." Try some other name if a designation is necessary. In New England, in simpler days when all the members of the family worked, the young woman who came in to work with the family was called the "help," and she fully deserved the title. "Help" might fit the present emergency, but certainly not "servant."

OUR old saw is giving place to new. Less and less are we hearing of those who don't know enough to go in when it rains, and more of such as these in any better sense than to lose their umbrellas somewhere. Verily, in this case is it like that the evil of the ancestor is being visited on the children. For there's little doubt, could it be traced out, that the folks who to-day don't know enough not to lose their umbrellas are the lineal descendants of those tyrants of the past who, in the spirit of Procrustes, cutting off and stretching out his victims till they fit his bed, measured the sense and brains of their contemporaries accordingly as they merely were or were not caught umbrellaless in a sudden rain.

WOLVERINE WHISPERS.

MICHIGAN STATE ITEMS OF MORE OR LESS IMPORTANCE.

The Graduating Class of the University the Largest Ever Turned Out of an American College.

Two hundred and 99 students were graduated at Ann Arbor at the '92 commencement at a vast expense of flowers. This is the largest class ever graduated from any college in this country. It took three tedious hours to complete the work, half of the time occupied in distributing the diplomas. Each graduating class assembled in its own department and marched in order to the walks in front of the University, down past the law building to State street and then to the grand procession up the walk to the University. They were headed by President Angell, ex-Gov. Jones, ex-Gen. Alpheus Felch, Dr. Winsor and the faculty. Justin Winsor, LL. D., librarian of Harvard College, who is a distinguished historian, delivered the commencement oration; read a paper, from a published pamphlet, if was learned, eloquent and historical, but his very few people could hear what he said on account of the breath upon the big audience that gathered in University Hall to see the supreme event of the year, the distribution of the sheepskin diplomas.

At the close of the exercises of the morning President Angell stepped to the edge of the platform and conferred the honorary degrees of Ph. D. upon John William Langley, for 14 years professor of chemistry and physics in the University of Michigan, now professor of applied engineering in the Cass school of applied science at Cleveland, and Robert Simpson Woodward, professor of mechanics and geodetic survey at Washington, D. C.

Fierce Fire at St. Ignace.

Huge volumes of smoke were seen coming from the windows and doors of the large plant formerly used by the Veneer Manufacturing company, at St. Ignace, but since its failure by Singer, Smith & Co., company, manufacturers of lock barrel staves under the Penfield patent. The employes hastily gave the alarm and every appliance for the extinguishing of fire in this section hastened to the scene of destruction, but as the whole immense plant was soon leveled to the ground by the intensity of the flames the department was helpless to cope with the conflagration. The wind was high and favorable or else the whole city might have shared in a general conflagration. The loss is placed as large as a man's leg were carried skyward in the draft formed, but luckily the building did not catch fire. A valuable quantity of manufactured product of the barrel factory was destroyed save one car load of goods shipped. The pay roll of the factory was $1,500 per month. The saw mill of Jamison & Company, purchasers of the Mackinaw Lumber company, was saved with much difficulty.

Important Supreme Court Decision.

A recent ruling of the supreme court will settle a much disputed point in legal and commercial transactions.

A woman named Moyer, who resides at Grand Ledge, owns a certain piece of property. She failed to pay her taxes, and the lands were sold to John W. Fitzgerald. The limit of redemption expired on Monday, which occurred on Saturday. On that day Mrs. Moyer, by telephone, asked the auditor-general if the money should be sent in on that day if it would be in time to redeem the land, and was told that it would. She sent for the amount of the delinquent taxes was made, but it failed to reach the auditor general until Monday, the 6th day of May.

Fitzgerald applied for a deed on the ground that the time for redemption had expired on April 30, and that he, being the lawful foreclosee, should be entitled to the property. The auditor general refused to issue the deed, and Fitzgerald applied to the supreme court for a mandamus to compel him to do so. The court held that the assurance of the auditor-general was that Mrs. Moyer could pay the taxes on Monday, the 6th day of May.

Drowning at Port Huron.

A sad drowning accident occurred at Port Huron by which Fred Clements, of Fort Gratiot, lost his life. Fred Clements, with a companion who is generally known as "John Jones," hired a boat at Rance Holland's fish house and went out on the river fishing. On returning home Clements offered to help with the oars, as Jones was doing considerable rowing, so accordingly took the front oar, but not having much of a success of it, Jones, when opposite the Grand Trunk freight sheds, asked him to exchange places with him, and in so doing Clements fell over backward and sank like a stone, not again making his appearance, although his companion waited around for some time. Clements was a young Englishman, a brick layer by trade, about 27 years of age.

Bitten by a Mad Dog.

Howard Rapson, employed as foreman on the farm of Norman Ely, of Springfield, was severely bitten by a mad dog that below the eye. He was standing by a feed cutting machine when a strange dog nabbed him. He was taken to Clarkston for medical aid, and the physician there says he will go to Chicago at once for the Pasteur treatment. The dog has not yet been killed, but the residents of that locality live in great fear. Great effort is being made to capture the animal.

A regimental reunion of the Fourth Michigan cavalry will be held at St. Johns, July 5. This is the regiment to whom belongs the credit of capturing Jeff Davis.

The Day He Celebrated.

Henry A. Smith, an inmate of the Soldiers' Home, at Grand Rapids, reached the home Wednesday morning with a pocket full of money and a watch which he had purchased on the street bowling alley. In his pockets were found six gold watch chains, a diamond stud pin and other jewelry, $208 in cash and an indorsed check on the sub-treasury for $9,000. He was locked up for safe keeping. His home is in Saginaw and he was sent there.

Rev. H. G. Foster, of the Decatur Presbyterian church, has accepted a charge at Jolland.

MICHIGAN STATE ITEMS.

The Huron county circuit court has adjourned until July 18.

The Bridgeport Free church will build a new house of worship.

Dave Macdonald, the last Indian resident of Fremont, is dead.

Amos Sellers, an Iosco horse-trainer, was kicked by a vicious horse and may die.

The West Michigan Kennel club is arranging to hold a fall bench show at Muskegon.

Fred Lutton, a former resident of Grand Rapids, was accidentally killed at Perry, Iowa.

The M. & E. has ordered several serious washouts on its new branch to Traverse City.

Andrew Olson was accidentally killed by falling rocks at the Champion iron company, near Ishpeming.

Henry Hutchinson, of Plainwell, by mistake swallowed a dose of paris green, but will recover.

Rev. E. Chesney, of Bay City, has been made a doctor of philosophy by the Illinois Wesleyan university.

Rev. E. M. Stanpenoss, of the South Standish Baptist church, has accepted a call from a charge at Ovid.

Albert Bacon was thrown out of his buggy at Ypsilanti by a runaway team and in a critical condition.

The Saginaw Bay Coal company, at Sebewaing, has abandoned machine work and is now mining by hand.

Thomas Brush heroically put out a fire in the Flint Gas Works, but was severely injured about the hands and face.

Several tramps took Policeman Abrahamson's club away from him at Negaunee, and with it almost beat the life out of the officer.

A colony of Hollanders are settling on the Standish and Sterling lands, obtaining all the vacant land in that immediate vicinity for farms.

The huckleberry crop of upper Michigan will be enormous. The berries are already very large and are too far advanced to be injured by frost. The blackberry crop will also be a heavy one.

Henry A. Balch, of Minneapolis, have been awarded the contract for building the new South Shore line from Iron River Junction to West Superior. The line is to be completed by Oct. 1.

About three years ago Jerry Cox, of Bellaire, township of Ida, went mad, suddenly disappeared. Now he has just as suddenly returned, having spent the three years working in Wisconsin.

The three-year-old son of Cadillac do not propose to let their native language die out. During the summer vacation a Swedish school will be started by Prof. John Olson with a view to perpetuating the north Europe tongue.

The engineers and firemen on the ore docks, which are owned by the D. S. S. & A. road have been granted an advance of 15 cents in wages per day and a reduction of one hour in time. Hereafter a day will consist of 11 hours' work, having previously been 12 hours.

The church scandal at Wacousta is still agitating the people. Rev. Mr. Hall communicated persons and 15 others in good standing have called for an investigation of the charges against Dr. Hall. They want the charges based upon the pastor stifled.

In April, John Moll, of Lincoln, bought from a peddler a 5-pot galvanized Stand made of native woods of about one inch in diameter. The ornament is painted and varnished and has been used in the parlor carpet away from moisture or immediate sunlight but the woods are budding, there are over 20 new leaves like protruding through the paint and varnish.

A SAD CASE.

A Seventy Year Old Minister Driven From a Town for Immoral Conduct.

Rev. Lucius Wilson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Visalia, Cal., was given 24 hours to leave town. Wilson owns a 5-acre vineyard 100 miles north of Visalia occupied by a tenant named Miller with two daughters aged seven and nine. Wilson was in the habit of taking the girls riding in his buggy and on several occasions took indecent liberties with them. The father of the children came to the town to kill Wilson but was persuaded not to do so by the officers of the church. Wilson acknowledged his guilt. He is over 70 years of age and was heretofore greatly esteemed. He left town at once leaving his family behind.

Could Not Land His Wife.

Owing to the chinese exclusion law Horn Bok, a wealthy Chinese merchant, is unable to land his wife whom he but recently married in China, says a San Francisco dispatch. Bok says that he met the girl in Marysville, Cal., five years ago and like a true Celestial, on her parents took her to China for proper education. A few months ago she returned to be married to Bok with his wife and her young sister. His own papers were all right, but the Custom house officials made mention of the departure of his bride five years ago and Judge Morrow decided that she could not land in the country. Then she learned she had to return to China she burst into tears. Her husband swears he will spend a fortune appealing the case to the supreme court.

Fatal Balloon Accident.

At the Crystal Palace, London a captive balloon, which carried passenger s up as far as the rope attached to it will allow, ascended with four occupants and after reaching a height of 500 feet it burst. Captain Dale struck the ground with terrible force and was instantly killed. The three other passengers were terribly injured and it is not believed that they will live.

The Shoshones Dance.

Six thousand Sioux Indians were at Cheyenne River agency, S. D., to take part in the progress of Catholic Sioux Indians to celebrate the completion and dedication of the fine new Catholic church erected by Miss Frances Drexel. The meeting was followed by a magnificent Indian dance. The pow wow will conclude Tuesday.

British Columbia Seamen Protest.

Premier Abbott, of Ottawa, Ont., received a telegram from the British Columbia Seamen's association declaring that the recent seizures of Canadian sealers by a United States cruiser were illegal and asking him to bring the matter to the attention of the imperial authorities.

Trouble With Honduras.

An international complication is in liable to grow out of the seizure of the steamer Joseph Otey, by the Honduran revolutionists. Joseph Otey, of New Orleans, the owner, states that he will make a demand through the United States government of Honduras for $70,000 damages for detention of the vessel.

Sarah Packard, aged 63 years, was struck by an engine and instantly killed, while walking on the track and paid no attention to the train. A coroner's jury exonerated the trainmen.

WEAVER AND FIELDS.

THE PEOPLE'S PARTY PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCES.

Gen. James B. Weaver, of Iowa, and James G. Field, of Virginia, Secure the Nominations.

The national convention of the People's party held at Omaha was well attended by delegates and was interesting from beginning to end.

Rev. William McCready, of Buffalo Gap, in the Black Hills, offered prayer and Gen. Weaver, temporary Chairman Ellington at once proceeded to business. The credentials committee reported no contests and the committee on permanent organization made the following report which was adopted. For permanent chairman, H. L. Loucks, South Dakota; for permanent secretary, J. W. Hagerman, New Jersey; for assistant secretaries, W. King, of Kansas, and Wm. Hogan, of Wisconsin; G. W. Benmark, South Carolina.

The committee on rules made its report which was adopted with a few amendments.

After a recess the roll of states was called for. Chairman Branch, of the resolutions committee, offered a resolution declaring it committee to wait upon the officials of the Union Pacific, Northern Pacific and Great Jersey Eastern railroads, celebrating with delegates to the convention having been given half fare rates as had been done by the Republican and Democratic delegates. This stirred up Marion Cannon, of California, who protested against the resolution. The vehement denunciation of the roads brought the audience to its feet several times and for several hours during the day. Mr. Cannon said: "I want this convention to understand," he said, "that it is not by sanction of the people's party that the Pacific Coast delegates have been given favors."

Jean, Dakota, York, grasped the matter to make politics out of it. There was an interstate Commission and he thought that matter should be brought before that organization to see whether the law permitted railroads to do such things. He favored national political convention against another. Let's use this for the purpose of a political issue, he said. The motion to make complaint to the commission was carried.

After this exciting episode the next business was the report of the committee on platformand resolutions, which was read by Thomas V. Lakor, of California.

The platform, which follows, is a lengthy preamble denouncing both the Republican and Democratic parties, is in substance as follows:

We declare that the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind; wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent, is robbery—"If any will not work neither shall he eat."

We believe in the government owning and managing the railroads, telephones and telegraph that the constitution should be amended so that all government employees under civil service examination.

We demand: A national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts public and private and that without the issue of banking corporations, a just, equitable and elastic volume of circulation direct to the people at a tax not to exceed per cent per annum to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or a better system; also by payments in this charge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation. We demand that the specific tax shall be restored to the people at a rate not to exceed 2