THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.
BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, FEB. 13.

Ain't it funny how well Venezuela gets along without Castro?

Of all the gold in the possession of man 70 per cent. is in the shape of coin.

Was it the goose-bone or the walnut-husk that promised us an early and hard winter?

A Michigan man has been sent to jail for stealing a 2-cent stamp. How that man must be despised in Pittsburg.

Milwaukee doctor married his cook. Why don't they start a magazine entitled, "What to Eat, and How to Recover?"

Numismatists are much dissatisfied with the new gold coins, but the common people are most displeased with the difficulty of getting them.

When aeronautics begin to pay, as they seem likely to do at no distant date, building castles in the air will have a substantial foundation.

Nat Goodwin has divided his fortune with his new wife. In case trouble follows this should simplify matters as far as alimony may be concerned.

To cure its office boys of loafing a firm at Beloit, Wis., has equipped the push carts they use with devices for registering the distance covered in trips and the speed made.

In disposing of an estate valued at $2,000 the will of Jennie Linn of Philadelphia directs that the deed to her cemetery lot is to be placed in the casket and buried with her.

Before the century is half over, we will probably be dispensing with aeroplanes and kindred devices, and will be using our own individual wings for flights in the air. Then automobiles will be used only when one feels like having a quiet, slow time of it.

Opium just now is not having soothing effects in China. On the contrary, the usually soporific drug is producing riots over the planting of poppies. The Chinese cannot understand why they should sacrifice their special financial interests for the general good of the race, in which view they are not exclusively oriental.

Consul General Robert J. Wynne makes the report that the returns of shipping and tonnage of the Suez canal for 1907 show that the net tonnage exhibits an all-round increase, the figures for the last year showing an increase of 1,282,930 tons as compared with that of 1906 and an increase of 1,594,329 over 1905. Receipts during 1907 showed an increase of $1,557,000 as compared with 1906.

The esteemed London Times dwells upon the artistic defects of Louis XV furniture and wonders why it is that rich Americans are picking up the specimens of it that are offered for sale in London. The most obvious reason is that they are generally prepared to outbid rich Englishmen who appear to be equally anxious to secure possession of it. It is a mere matter of the relative resources of rival bidders, rather than any lamentable difference in taste.

A policeman in New York, convicted of brutally beating a citizen, pleaded for mercy on the ground that he had a wife and family. Why the fact of having a wife and family should be regarded as giving practical immunity in violating the rights of others, is what neither law nor logic has ever found out; but it is brought forward so often and is frequently so successful that a certain class of wrongdoers have learned to rely upon it to escape the consequences of their own deliberate acts.

Three fires in New York at once with a loss of nearly a million, made a good test lately of the new high pressure system. It worked in a way to make the fire authorities enthusiastic, and to its efficiency is laid the fact the loss was not many more millions. This is the first time the system has had a severe test, and it proved equal to the emergency. Consequently, says the Baltimore American, the city officials are congratulating themselves on so satisfactory an addition to the city fire defenses.

Civil service reformers have no reason to be displeased with the working out of the merit system. Secretary Cortelyou of the treasury department rose to his present position from the ranks of the classified stenographers, and Frank H. Hitchcock, whom Mr. Taft is reported to have selected for postmaster general, began his government employment in the department of agriculture, and rose from merit to assistant postmaster generalship. The ideal toward which this is tending is that the government service should offer a career to a young man, independent of partisan politics or political "pull."

The plutocratic agriculists of the west who have full granaries and gleeful bank accounts, are wondering what the special commission will be able to do to make farm life more attractive, unless, suggests the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, it be to advise the farmer to move into town.

Now if these pugilists were only as skilled to strike a blow as they are in blowing!

The days are growing longer, but it will take some time to get the gas companies to believe it.

A defeated litigant in a Leipsic court killed the clerk and seriously injured the presiding judge. We have more than our share of assassinations, says the Philadelphia Record, but there is a certain sort of consolation in the reflection that we do not have all of them, and that Tennessee or California may occasionally be matched in one of the most thoroughly policed countries of Europe.

Let the foreign nobleman not despair. The unmarried women in this country are countless.

LINCOLN

By S. E. KISER.

New heroes rise above the toiling throng,
And daily come resplendent into view,
And pass again, remembered by a few,
To leave one form in bold relief and strong
That higher looms as ages march along:
One name that lingers in the memory, too,
And singers through all time shall raise the song
And keep it swelling loud and ringing true!
Lo, where the feet of Lincoln passed, the earth
Is sacred, where he knelt we set a shrine!
O to have pressed his hand! That had sufficed
To make my children wonder at my worth
Yet, let them glory, since their land and mine
Hath reared the greatest martyr after Christ!

WRITTEN BY LINCOLN IN 1841

Letter Reveals Sense of Humor of Which This Great Man Was Possessed---"Tragedy" That Culminated in Joke on Springfield Citizens

Among legal records in the possession of Mr. John F. Geeting, prominent Chicago attorney and editor of American Criminal Reports, is the following letter written by Abraham Lincoln in 1841. It appeared originally in the Quincy Whig of April 9, 1846, and in that article, probably written by Lincoln himself (for it is known that he took much interest in the features of the case) the following lines appear: "On the next Monday Myers arrived at Springfield, bringing with him the now famed Fisher, in full life and proper person." Evidently the letter of Lincoln was written before Fisher had been found.

Springfield, June 19, 1841.—Dear Speed: We have had the highest state of excitement here for a week past that our community has ever witnessed; and although the public feeling is somewhat allayed, the curious affair which aroused it is very far from being over, yet cleared of mystery. It would take a quire of paper to give you anything like a full account of it, and I, therefore, only propose a brief outline.

The chief personages in the drama are Archibald Fisher, supposed to be murdered, and Archibald Trailor, Henry Trailor and William Trailor, supposed to have murdered him. The three Trailors are brothers. On Saturday evening, being the 29th of May, Fisher and William came to Henry's in a one-horse dearborn, and there stayed over Sunday; and Monday all three came to Springfield (Henry on horseback), and joined Archibald at Myers', the Dutch carpenter. That evening at supper Fisher was missing, and so next morning some ineffectual search was made for him; and on Tuesday, at 1 o'clock p. m., William and Henry started home without him. In a day or two Henry and one or two of his Clary Grove neighbors came back for him again, and advertised his disappearance in the papers.

The mass of the people commenced a systematic search for the dead body, while Wickersham was dispatched to arrest Henry Trailor at the Grove, and Jim Maxcy to Warren to arrest William. On Monday last, Henry was brought in, and showed an evident inclination to insinuate that he knew Fisher to be dead, and that Archibald and William had killed him. He said he guessed the body could be found in Spring creek, between the Beardstown road and Hickox's mill. Away the people swept like a herd of buffalo, and cut down Hickox's mill-dam nolens volens, to draw the water out of the pond, and then went up and down, and down and up the creek, fishing and raking, and raking and ducking, and diving for two days, and, after all, no dead body found. In the meantime a sort of scuffling-ground had been found in the brush in the angle, or point, where the road leading into the woods past the brewery, and the one leading in past the brick grove met. From the scuffle-ground was the sign of something about the size of a man having been dragged to the edge of the thicket, where joined the track of some small wheeled carriage drawn by one horse, as shown by the road-track.

On Thursday last Jim Maxcy brought in William Trailor from Warren. On the same day Arch. was arrested, and put in jail. Yesterday (Friday) William was put upon his examining trial before May and Lavely; Archibald and Henry were both present. Lamborn prosecuted, and Logan, Baker and your humble servant defended. A great many witnesses were introduced and examined, but I shall only mention those whose testimony seemed most important. The first of these was Capt. Ransdell. He swore that, when William and Henry left Springfield for home on Tuesday before mentioned, they did not take the direct route—which, you know, leads by the butcher shop; but that they followed the street north until they got opposite, or nearly opposite.

Henry was then introduced by the prosecution. He swore that, when they started for home, they went out north, as Ransdell stated, and turned down west by the brick-yard into the woods, and there met Archibald; that they proceeded a small distance further, when he was placed as a sentinel to watch for and announce the approach of anyone that might happen that way; that William and Arch took the dearborn out of the road a small distance to the edge of the thicket, where they stopped, and he saw them lift the body of a man into it; that they moved off with the carriage in the direction of Hickox's mill, and he loitered about for something like an hour. When William returned with the carriage, but without Arch., and said they had put him in a safe place; that they went somehow, he did not know exactly how, into the road close to the brewery, and proceeded on to Clary's Grove. He also stated that some time during the day William told him that he and Arch. had killed Fisher in the evening before; that the way they did it was by him (William) knocking him down with a club, and Archibald then choking him to death.

An old man from Warren, called Dr. Gilmore, was then introduced on the part of the defense. He swore that he had known Fisher for several years; that Fisher had resided at his house a long time at each of the different spells, since while he built a barn for him, and once while he was doctored for some chronic disease; that two or three years ago Fisher had a serious hurt in his head by the bursting of a gun, since which he had been subject to continued bad health and occasional aberration of mind. He also stated that on last Tuesday, being the same day that Maxcy arrested William Trailor, he (the doctor) was from home in the early part of the day, and on his return, about 11 o'clock, found Fisher at his house in bed, and apparently very unwell; that he asked him how he had come from Springfield; that Fisher said he had come by Peoria, which showed that he at the time of speaking did not know where he had been wandering about in a state of derangement. He further stated that in about two hours he received a note from one of Trailor's friends advising him of his arrest and requesting him to go on to Springfield as a witness to testify as to the state of Fisher's health in former times; that he immediately set off, calling up two of his neighbors as company, and riding all evening and all night, overtook Maxcy and William at Lewiston in Fulton county. That Maxcy refusing to discharge Trailor upon his statement, his two neighbors returned, and he came to Springfield.

Here the testimony ended, and the Trailors were discharged, Archibald and William expressing both in word and manner their entire confidence that Fisher would be found at the doctor's by Galloway, Mallory and Myers, who a day before had been dispatched for that purpose; while Henry still protested that no power on earth could ever show Fisher alive.

When the doctor's story was first made public, it was amusing to scan and contemplate the countenances, and hear the remarks of those who had been actively engaged in the search for the dead body, some looked quizzical, some melancholy, and some furiously angry. Porter, who had been very active, swore he always knew the man was not dead, and that he had not stirred an inch to hunt for him. Langford, who had taken the lead in cutting down Hickox's mill-dam, and wanted to hang Hickox for objecting, looked most awfully woebegone; he seemed the "victim of unrequited affection," as represented in the comic almanacs we used to laugh over. And Hart, the little dray-man that hauled Molly home once, said it was too damned bad to have so much trouble and no hanging after all.

I commenced this letter yesterday, since which I received yours of the 13th. I stick to my promise to come to Louisville. Nothing new here, except what I have written. I have not seen —— since my last trip, and I am going out there as soon as I mail this letter. Yours forever,

LINCOLN.

LINCOLN AS A POET.

"Tried His Hand" at It, But Was Hardly Successful.

That Abraham Lincoln wrote poetry, or at least verses, in his earlier days is news, but there is nothing at all surprising in it. For to almost everybody with any command of words there comes at some time both the inclination and the ability to put them in measured lines. That Lincoln should have tried his hand at the gentle art was natural—indeed, inevitable; that one of the effusions should have survived is an accident which nobody need regret, particularly as "The Bear Hunt," now on exhibition among Mr. Morgan's manuscript treasures in the Columbia library, is not so bad, as an experiment, though it is quite bad enough to justify and explain why its author decided that his business in life was not the cultivation of the muse.

Note the second stanza of this curious production:

When first thy father settled here
'T was then the frontier line;
The panther's scream filled night with fear,
And bears preyed on the swine.

One cannot decide offhand whether that was written in jest or earnest. Lincoln's tendency toward humor helps one toward the conclusion that the lines are funny by intention, but they are not sufficiently funny to establish a conviction, especially as the humor of them is not at all of the recognized Lincoln sort, and their rather laborious accuracy of rhyme and rhythm indicates that the writer was really trying to do his best, with some faint hope that his best would be—poetry.

Of course the man who later wrote the Gettysburg address was in no danger of self-deception as to the merits of his verses, and, while he may have made other trials of his youthful aspiration, the disappearance of the results is proof of how he judged them. It may be said, incidentally, that whole reams of verse, some of it no better, and much of it very much worse, than this "Bear Hunt," are sent to this office every month by persons who seem to have no doubt at all about their claims to space and remuneration. Moreover, persistent declination of their proffered gems rarely has a discouraging or enlightening effect on these misguided wasters of our time and their own.—New York Times.

Lincoln's Gethsemane.

I would willingly take out of my life a period in years equal to the two months which intervene between now and my inauguration. Because every hour adds to the difficulties I am called upon to meet and the present administration does nothing to check the tendency toward dissolution. I, who have been called to meet this awful responsibility, am compelled to remain here, doing nothing to avert it or lessen its force when it does come to me. I see the duty devolving upon me. I have read upon my knees the story of Gethsemane, when the Son of God prayed in vain that the cup of bitterness might pass from him. I am in the Garden of Gethsemane now, and my cup of bitterness is full to overflowing.—Said by President Lincoln to Judge Gillespie in 1861.

Labor and Capital.

Labor is prior to and independent to capital; capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration. Capital has its rights, which are as worthy of protection as any other rights; nor is it denied that there is, and probably always will be a relation between labor and capital producing mutual benefits.—From President Lincoln's Annual Message, 1861.

His Hard Task.

It is true that while I hold myself, without mock modesty, the humblest of all individuals who have ever been elected president of the United States, I yet have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them has ever yet encountered.—From a Speech by Lincoln in 1861.

Sorrow is a Fruit.

Sorrow is a fruit; God does not make it grow on limbs too weak to bear it.—Victor Hugo.

ARMSTRONG CASE TAKES NEW TURN

FIRST CHARGE IS DISMISSED AND REARREST MADE ON NEW ONE.

BAIL MADE MUCH LARGER

Bondsmen Promptly Respond and Case Goes to Next Week—Seeking For New Evidence.

When Justice Russell opened court Monday morning, in the preliminary hearing of Warden Allen N. Armstrong of Jackson prison, charged with accepting a bribe of $100 from Gen. Fred W. Green, of the Acme Reed Furniture Co., the court room was crowded to the doors and hundreds stood in the street unable to gain admittance. The warden was half an hour late in arriving, but his attorneys, J. W. Miner and W. S. Cobb, were on hand early and said that they considered the case against their client a very flimsy one.

There was a hitch in the proceedings as soon as the warden appeared. Prosecutor Reece told the court that he wanted the warden dismissed on the original complaint and rearrested on a new warrant issued earlier this morning, charging Armstrong with soliciting a bribe under the common law, instead of under the statute, in the eyes of the prosecutor a more serious complaint. This was immediately done.

Armstrong's bondsmen, ex-Senator Archibald Peek and Herbert S. Reynolds, renewed their obligations as sureties, but they were obliged to qualify to the tune of $10,000 in each case, the bail having been raised from $6,000.

"You can make the bail $100,000 if you like," suggested Mr. Miner, one of the warden's attorneys.

"Do you really think anybody in Jackson has that much money?" Mr. Reece jokingly asked Mr. Miner.

"You can't prove it by me," Mr. Miner answered.

Mr. Miner asked for an adjournment of the hearing on the new warrant until 9 a. m. Tuesday, Feb. 16. Mr. Reece was agreeable to the postponement, and the big crowd filed out of the court much disappointed. Everybody was anxious to see the case go on. Those on the outside of the court, unable to gain admittance on account of the smallness of the court, heard the news with approval, however, for it was announced that the examination next week would take place in the court house, where the accommodations are much better.

The change made in the third count of the warrant against the warden was as follows:

"And that he, said Allen N. Armstrong, would thereafter so manage, superintend and control the work of said prison under said contract, and the assignment of the convict labor there under that said contract would thereafter result in what it had not heretofore been, a profitable enterprise for the Acme Reed Furniture Co."

It is known that Prosecutor Reece is making preparations to investigate rumors in connection with the installation of the binder twine plant at the prison, and the methods adopted. The prosecutor, however, intimates that he has thus far nothing definite to work on in this connection, but that he expects to dig up evidence within the near future.

All Summer Session.

That the special session of congress to be called in March, for the purpose of revising the tariff will be prolonged far into the summer and possibly into the fall months, is the belief of the leaders of the house who have been advised of the many problems that have been presented for the solution of the Republican members of the committee on ways and means.

Not only are the members of the committee finding it difficult to reach an agreement in many schedules, but it is already apparent that the house will insist upon a full and free discussion when the tariff bill is presented for consideration.

The situation is disquieting to the Republican leaders. They appreciate the necessity of early action, but from present indications protracted debate on the subject in the house will be followed by equally material deliberation on the part of the senate. Then will come the wrangle in conference.

Speaker Cannon has refused to make any engagements for July, as he expects congress to be in session until the 15th of that month, and in all probability for some time afterwards.

Busted the Trust.

The ouster proceedings of the state of Texas against the American Book company came to an abrupt termination at Austin by the agreed judgment being entered in favor of the state for $15,000 penalties and ouster from the state.

One of the principal reasons for the action of the state for compromising was that the company has no property in the state which could be levied on in case that larger penalties were obtained. The state sued for penalties approximating three million dollars.

Will Sue for Libel.

It is maintained by Governor Haskell's friends that the governor will bring suit against Roosevelt as soon as the latter retires from the presidency, similar to the $500,000 suit against Hearst.

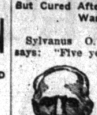
A resolution was passed by the lower house of the legislature condemning the indictment returned against Gov. Haskell. A similar resolution was offered in the senate, which went over on objection to it by Senator Roddy, a Democrat.

Seeing two hands protruding through the ice in Grand River, three small boys chopped from its position the body of Ernest Birdsell, 50, a Lansing painter, who had been missing for two weeks. He evidently had drowned while crossing the ice after drinking.

"Sid" Hall will probably be appointed journal clerk of the house to succeed Alex. H. Smith, who died recently. Hall comes from Saginaw and is the present bill clerk of the house. He occupied a similar position during the last session of the legislature and constitutional convention.

ONE KIDNEY GONE

But Cured After Doctors Said There Was No Hope.



Sylvanus O. Verrill, Milford, Me., says: "Five years ago a bad injury paralyzed me and affected my kidneys. My back hurt me terribly, and the urine was badly disordered. Doctors said my right kidney was practically dead. They said I could never walk again. I read of Doan's Kidney Pills and began using them. One box made me stronger and freer from pain. I kept on using them and in three months was able to get out on crutches, and the kidneys were doing better. I improved rapidly, discarded the crutches and, to the wonder of my friends was soon completely cured."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

FULL OF HARMONY.

Old Sport—I suppose you've come of a musical family?

The Other—Musical! Bless you, sir, why even our dog's got a brass band round its neck!

CHILD HAD SIXTY BOILS,

And Suffered Annually with a Red, Scald-Like Humor on Her Head.

Troubles Cured by Cuticura.

"When my little Vivian was about six months old her head broke out in boils. She had about sixty in all and I used Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment which cured her entirely. Some time later a humor broke out behind her ears and spread up on to her head until it was nearly half covered. The humor looked like a scald, very red with a sticky, clear fluid coming from it. This occurred every spring. I always used Cuticura Soap and Ointment which never failed to heal it up. The last time it broke out it became so bad that I was discouraged. But I continued the use of Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent until she was well and has never been troubled in the last two years." Mrs. M. A. Schwerin, 674 Spring Wells Ave., Detroit, Mich., Feb. 24, 1908."

Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

Enforced Economy.

A friend of Pat's was caught in a shower near his cottage and asked shelter from the elements. Pat opened the door. One of the first things the friend saw was rain coming steadily through a hole in the roof.

"Pat, boy," said he, "for why don't ye fix th' hole in th' roof?"

"The hole in the roof, is it?" asked Pat, spearing for an excuse. "Oh, yis. I would, ye know, but whin th' rain is comin' in I can't fix it, an' whin it don't rain it don't need fixin'."

Not Afraid of a Ghost.

In a village in England, a month or so ago, a man came running into an inn at nine o'clock at night and cried out that there was a ghost in his back yard. There were 14 men in the inn, and not one of them dared to go home with the man and investigate. There was a person who dared, however, and that was the landlord's daughter, a girl of 14. Some of the men followed her at a distance, she went into the yard and up to the ghost flapping its arms about, and discovered—what? That it was no more nor less than a man's white shirt flapping on the clothes line in a strong breeze. That's about the way all ghosts turn out.

Not Included.

After the dry goods salesman had completed his business with Cyrus Craig, Centerville's storekeeper, he asked what was going on in the town. "Had any entertainments this winter?" he inquired.

"No," said Mr. Craig, "not one. Some Howe's pupils have given two concerts, piano and organ, and the principal of the cademy has lectured twice, once on 'Our National Forests' and once on 'Stones As I Know Them;' but as far as entertainments are concerned, Centerville hasn't got round to 'em yet."—Youth's Companion.

NO MEDICINE

But a Change of Food Gave Relief.

Many persons are learning that drugs are not the thing to rebuild worn out nerves, but proper food is required.

There is a certain element in the cereals, wheat, barley, etc., which is grown there by nature for food to brain and nerve tissue. This is the phosphate of potash, of which Grape-Nuts food contains a large proportion.

In making this food all the food elements in the two cereals, wheat and barley, are retained. That is why so many heretofore nervous and run down people find in Grape-Nuts a true nerve and brain food.

"I can say that Grape-Nuts food has done much for me as a nerve renewer," writes a Wis. bride.

"A few years ago, before my marriage, I was a bookkeeper in a large firm. I became so nervous toward the end of each week that it seemed I must give up my position, which I could not afford to do.

"Mother purchased some Grape-Nuts and we found it not only delicious but I noticed from day to day that I was improving until I finally realized I was not nervous any more.

"I have recommended it to friends as a brain and nerve food, never having found its equal. I owe much to Grape-Nuts as it saved me from a nervous collapse, and enabled me to retain my position."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.