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We solicit correspondence and news items from all the surrounding towns.

Any one desiring to become a regular correspondent, or to have his name published with special notice, will please write to our instructions.

Every communication must contain the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We must not be held responsible for sentiments expressed by writers.

If you have any business at the Probate Office, make the request that your notice be published in the Manchester Enterprise, such a request will always be granted.

Changes in display of advertisements are made in the order of their receipt at this office, and cannot be positively promised unless handed in at least upon the Tuesday before the desired position.

All articles for publication should be addressed MANCHESTER ENTERPRISE, Manchester, Mich.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1884

The cost of Michigan's public schools for 1883 is \$4,735,927.

Experiments recently made, prove that red lead is the best preservative of iron. White lead should not be used in priming iron.

Recent experiments have proved that barbed wire fences along railways cannot be used successfully for telegraphic purposes.

The man who brings the largest collection of poultry to the Michigan Poultry and Pot Stock Association, at Bath Creek, January 25-27, will get a silver pitcher.

Soft coal has been struck at Grand Ledge and preparations are being made to mine it. Wish some one would try and see if they could not strike a mine of coal in this vicinity.

Members of the Masonic Mutual Benefit Association of Western Michigan, received a New Year's present in the way of an assessment. The institution is one of the best and is cheap.

The public expects to learn something new about the Cronch murder when the coroner's jury meets, and Pinkerton's men are of the opinion that the murder was committed by unprofessional robbers.

The London Telegraph thinks that the time is not far distant when every night farer will carry his own ray of electricity about him, enclosed within the compass of a machine not larger than the watch now ticking in his pocket.

The annual circular of R. G. Dun & Co. shows over 9,000 failures in business for the year 1883, a greater number than in any previous year since 1875, which was the culminating year of the financial depression which began in the panic of 1873.

The trial, last week, of the telephonist devised by Webster Gillett, of Ypsilanti, proved successful, conversation being carried on between New York and Meadville, Pa. a distance of 500 miles. Prof. Gillett hopes to "hello" with the people on the other side of the ocean before he gets through.

A call is made for a mass convention of temperance men of every shade of political belief, to be held at Jackson on Wednesday, the 9th of January, at 10 A. M. for the purpose of taking united political action. The call is signed by more than 30 of the leading temperance men of the state.

We received news by telephone last evening that Mrs. Dan. Halcomb, daughter of the late Jacob Cronch, had just been found dead in bed. Her husband had gone to Jackson, leaving her with her daughter Edith. It is claimed that she shot herself up in her room at noon, bolted the doors, unfastened and went to bed, contrary to her custom. A bottle of laudanum was found by the doctor. An inquest will be held to ascertain if possible whether or not it is a case of suicide.

Respectable newspaper men everywhere are talking against the sale of dime novels, the Police Gazette, etc., and other pernicious literature, because it is frightful, apparent to what end it is leading the youth of our fair country. The demoralizing and dangerous character of a certain class of literature sought after and highly prized by boys and girls has been painfully apparent in many cities and the authorities are taking steps towards their suppression. We wish every place would move against them.

D. L. Quirk & Co., claiming to have acquired the rights and title of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad Company to certain lands owned by the city of Hillsdale, have brought suit against that municipality to compel the delivery of the bonds, or in default thereof the payment of the principal and interest due thereon. It has been generally understood that the question of municipal aid to railroads in Michigan was settled by the supreme court a dozen years ago, but it seems that the above firm don't believe it, and suit has been brought in the Hillsdale circuit court in chancery. We await with interest the result.

CLINTON.

Win. House of Toledo, has been visiting here this week.

Thomas Whigton has been down from Napoleon, to celebrate New Year's.

The woolen factory has shut down for an indefinite period.

J. B. House and family and John House and family, have all repaired to the parental mansion near Jackson, to spend the New Year's holiday.

Friday night of last week, J. R. Severance, who lives four miles west of this village, was taken suddenly and severely ill. A man and boy were dispatched for a physician and when half a mile west of town, the harness gave way, the cutter assaulted the horse and there was a lively time, the occupants of the vehicle slipped out, the boy went back with the doctor and the horse was found in town at daylight with part of the harness on.

EAST FRANKLIN.

Mrs. Miller Gregg and Mrs. Charles Smith of Ypsilanti, have been visiting friends in this vicinity.

Miss Alta Uplike of North Adams, is spending the holidays with her cousin, Miss Mattie Uplike, of this place.

While playing on the ice on Thursday last, Fanny DeLayee slipped and fell, striking on her face and hurting her quite seriously.

Mr. & Mrs. R. N. McCollum went to East Milan, New Year's, to attend the wedding of their daughter, Mrs. O. Wintan.

Mrs. Henry Wood and son, of Hillsdale, are visiting at Rodman Taylor's. Mr. Taylor has been quite sick but is now convalescent.

A party of five sleigh loads gave Mr. & Mrs. John A. Smith a surprise on last Wednesday evening. The company brought music with them and a sociable hop was enjoyed by all.

NORVELL.

Truman and Addison Barton have bought their father's farm and will take possession on the 1st of April next.

Mrs. Catherine Stoner, of Carthage, Missouri, arrived here last Friday on a visit to relatives and friends. She is at present the guest of her brother, John M. Carr.

Benj. C. Burton is nearly blind again. A few years ago he was entirely blind, caused by the formation of cataracts. Prof. Frothingham performed the delicate operation of removing them with the knife and he was made to see again until a few days ago, the optic nerve became affected, since when his sight has gradually failed so that now he can barely discern daylight from darkness.

Supervisor James Cobb reports that the value of real estate as assessed by him in the townships of Norvell in 1883 is \$677,067, and personal estate \$145,505, total \$822,572, which was equalized at \$734,995, being a reduction of \$87,577 by the board of equalization.

Our taxes are: State \$1,452.10; county \$1,190.85; town \$370; school \$1,225.52; highway \$778.37; road and bridge \$372.40; excess of roll 87 cents; total \$5,078.54.

The amount of school tax to which each district is entitled is:

WILLIAM TOWN	107.00
District No. 1	110.00
District No. 2	124.00
District No. 3	128.00
District No. 4	89.85
District No. 5	100.00
District No. 6	100.00
District No. 7	100.00
District No. 8	100.00
District No. 9	100.00
District No. 10	100.00
District No. 11	100.00
District No. 12	100.00
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The taxes are 54 cents on the hundred dollars this year as against 45 cents last year. Where there is a school district tax they are proportionately higher, and our rate tax is over 10 per cent. greater than last year.

Did you ever attend a "surprise party" one that proved a genuine success? Such a gathering was held in Norvell Jan 1st, 1884, at the residence of Uncle Joseph Pratt and wife. They had been married 45 years, their wedding having taken place Jan. 1st, 1839.

For some time there had been a movement in Norvell, which had been recognized only by whispers. On Tuesday—New Year's day—friends prevailed on Uncle Joseph and his wife to go from home. Early in the afternoon, friends began to assemble at their deserted house, abundantly supplied with all that could make a hungry crowd happy. Uncle Joseph and his wife were then sent for, and when they arrived home and found their house completely filled with neighbors and friends, their looks showed that their emotion was real and not feigned.

The great interest of a surprise party is to have it a surprise and then witness the effect of it. It is innocent amusement, yet of thrilling interest.

To make the 45th anniversary of their marriage memorable in a substantial way, their friends brought in presents to the value of \$35.25. Among these was a valuable carpet; one doz. silver knives and forks; an elegant easy chair; a bridal cake, with 1839 and 1884 and two hands clasped, decorating its surface. Our pastor, Rev. I. W. Lamb, from Jackson, made a neat presentation address and Uncle Joseph and wife made touching and appreciative responses. The gifts show how richly enshrined in the warm and generous hearts Mr. & Mrs. Pratt are.

Lenawee County Items.

There is talk of starting another newspaper at Tecumseh.

Mrs. Abel Whitney is said to be the oldest living member of the Presbyterian church of Adrian.

One of Edison's engineers has been talking up the electric light scheme to the Adrian people.

An Adrian paper says: Adrian has 25 lawyers and all of these are strict church members—except 23.

The Peninsular car works will begin operations again at Adrian on the 10th of January, and the people of that city are happy.

Burglars entered Geo. Baldwin's house at Adrian, Sunday evening, carrying away with them, \$60 in cash, a \$55 check and some jewelry.

Burglars entered Geo. Keyser's saloon, Tecumseh, last week, Wednesday night by means of a back window, obtained about \$150 and made good their escape.

An egg weighing 42 oz. and having a circumference of 8 1/2 inches one way and 6 1/2 inches the other, was a Christmas gift to J. S. Kies, of Clinton, by one of his hens.

The new post-office at Union station, on the M. & O. road, in the town of Cambridge will be named Onsted, and our friend, J. E. Gibbs will be postmaster. Good for him.

The Adrian daily Times with its usual promptness and enterprise appeared on Monday with a four column record of the principal events of the year '83. The copy is well worth perusing.

George Avery's tin jarring works of Adrian, burned Friday evening, with a loss on contents of \$1,300 insured for \$1,000. The building was formerly a church edifice, being the first built in the city.

Jackson County Items.

Grass Lake pork buyers are shipping ten car loads of hogs a week.

Jackson boys make trouble, both by coasting on the walks and in the streets.

The Jackson Patriot saw Jackson foundry men use pig iron from Alabama.

The Saturday Evening Star, published by Tarbox at Jackson is greatly improved of late.

Jackson Water Works pump 1,100,000 gallons of water daily, at an expense for fuel of \$7.50.

Miss Clara Wilcox, telegraph operator of Jackson, was knocked down Friday night and her pocket book stolen.

A roller skating race for the championship of Michigan and a purse of \$75, will occur at Jackson, January 9th.

Norton Christianly, a convict in the Jackson prison committed suicide Saturday night, by cutting his throat with a rusty constructed razor.

Grass Lake folks want some enterprising miller to start a grist mill in a building they can furnish, 38,880 feet, supplied with a 60-horse power engine.

Mrs. Frances Graves, of Grass Lake, thinks she is 105 years old. She was a slave in Virginia for over 75 years and is the mother of 14 children.—Post and Tribune.

The Norvell people surprised Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pratt on New Year's day. They filled the house, ate oysters and left a lot of presents to gladden the old couple's hearts.

We understand that Addis Berger, of Grass Lake, would like to sell his farm at a bargain if a purchaser is found soon. This looks as though Addis may be thinking of returning home.

Miss Alta Irene Mills, an enterprising young lady of Jackson, has 320 acres of land in Dakota, obtained by herself. She has returned to Jackson to spend the winter, returning west in the spring.

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Warren Greening and Estella Royce at the congregational church in Chelsea on the 9th. It is to be a tony affair. We understand that the bridal party will go west to spend the honeymoon.

The meeting of the Norvell Farmer's Club at P. P. Cole's on Saturday last was a very pleasant one, and judging from the readiness with which all seemed to take part in the debate, the meeting was a profitable one. The ENTERPRISE expects to have a report from the secretary next week.

The next meeting of the Norvell Farmer's Club will be held at President Halladay's on the last Saturday in January. The subject for discussion will be, "Should we increase the size or the fertility of our farms." Essays by Ben. Matison and Geo. H. Ladd and Mrs. McMaster. Select reading by Mrs. Geo. Rhead.

Real Estate Transfers.

JACKSON COUNTY.

Wesley Burdard to Barbara E. Wood, 60 acres on section 1 in Leoni, and 20 acres on section 6 in Grass Lake: \$4,300.

WASHKAW COUNTY.

