

THE ANN ARBOR DEMOCRAT.

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VICTOR MARIE HUGO.

Victor Marie Hugo, who died May 22,

1885, one of the greatest writers of the

present century was born in the little

village of Besancon on the Rhine Canal,

Feb. 26th 1802. His father was an officer

of the French army whose duties

led him a somewhat nomadic life, and

the young Victor traveled extensively

before he had reached his teens. In

1809 he was taken to Paris and under

the supervision of his mother began

his education. In 1817 he published his

first volume of poems and in 1822 his

second, under the title of "Odes and

Ballads" and created such a sensation

that he was granted an annuity by the

king of France. The novels and essays

from his pen were received with the

greatest enthusiasm. In 1841 he was

elected to the academy and in 1845

Hugo was made a peer by Louis Philip-

pe. He was very active in the revolu-

tion of 1848, and in 1845 he was one

of the deputies who vainly attempted to

assert the rights of the assembly and to

preserve the constitution. For the posi-

tion he took in this affair he was ex-

iled and fled to the Island of Jersey in

the English Channel. After the fall of

the Empire he returned to Paris. His

works have been translated into all

of the civilized languages and are known

to all classes. Almost to the last he

retained his brilliant mental faculties,

and for many days before the summons

came he would sit bolstered up in bed,

pen in hand, correcting the manu-

scripts of his loss unpublished poems.

Sorrow at his loss is universal.

TIMELY TOPICS.

The annual meeting of the state

planner association held in Lansing a

few days since in many respects

one of the most interesting meetings ever

held in the state. The programme

prepared embraced historical and bio-

graphical sketches, reminiscences of the

early settlement of various localities in

the state, recitations, music, etc. One

of the papers deserving special mention

was the one prepared by Hon. Peter

White of Marquette on the early history

of the upper peninsula. The history of

that wonderful region was carefully re-

viewed from the time of the negotia-

tion for the narrow strip of land on the

southern border of the state for the

upper peninsula, until the present

time. All the papers showed careful

preparation, and will form valuable

contributions to the historical records of

the state. 'Twas a pleasant sight to

witness those hardy old pioneers "with

faces turned toward the sunset," as

they met together to recall the events

of their early experiences, and reviewed

with pride the grand achievements of

the years that are gone. All honor to the

hardy pioneers who have worked so

long and well and given to the genera-

tion of to-day so good a heritage. Be

it ours to ever revere their memory,

and hold in sacred trust the lessons

taught by their early hardships and priv-

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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MICHIGAN NEWS.

Reducing Salaries.

The following changes have been made

at the postoffice department in Michigan

postmasters' salaries, to go into effect July 1.

These changes are made on the basis of the

amount under the two-cent postage reduction.

It will be observed that in some cases the

salaries are increased. The total number re-

viewed was 2,933—first class 71, second class

882, third class 1,760, relegated to fourth class

134. The number of principal offices are all third

class offices will be 3,231. The aggregate of

all postmasters' salaries in the United States is

\$1,362,790. Following is the list of changes in

Michigan, so arranged that they may be seen

at a glance:

Place Old Salary New Salary

Detroit \$3,700 \$3,700

Albion 2,000 2,000

Alexandria 1,700 1,700

Alpena 1,900 1,900

Ann Arbor 2,000 2,000

Ashtabula 1,700 1,700

Big Rapids 2,300 2,100

Berrien Springs 1,700 1,700

Bloomfield 2,000 1,700

Calumet 1,700 1,700

Charlevoix 1,700 1,700

Charlton 1,700 1,700

Chesapeake 1,700 1,700

Chippewa 1,700 1,700

Coldwater 2,300 2,100

Constantine 1,700 1,700

Eastland 1,700 1,700

Dowagiac 1,600 1,500

Eaton Rapids 1,500 1,400

Easton 1,700 1,700

Evart 1,500 1,400

Grand Haven 1,700 1,700

Greenville 1,500 1,400

Hancock 1,700 1,700

Hastings 1,700 1,700

