

## NEWS ITEMS.

It is estimated that there are 250,000 gypsies in Great Britain.

The foot-hills of the Sierra Nevadas now produce the finest figs and grapes in California.

The burnt district in Portland has been accurately surveyed, and found to cover an area of three hundred and twenty-seven acres.

The losses by fire throughout the United States for the past six months amounted to \$45,000,000.

The Prussians, as a distinctive mark in the present campaign, wear on the left arm a band of white stuff marked with a red cross.

FORTY thousand feet of gas is daily discharged by the fine natural gas spring at Gettsville, near Buffalo. A company has been organized to light the city by it.

LARGE portions of the rock at the centre of the crest of the Horseshoe Fall at Niagara have recently given way, giving the fall more of a triangular shape than heretofore.

ABIEL CHANDLER of Bethel, Me., made 800 pounds of maple sugar the present season from trees which he set out himself 40 years ago. He is now raising a sugar orchard of over 1,000 trees.

AN Australian journal states that recently, near Sydney, New South Wales, a turtle was found that measured seven feet in length and weighed 700 pounds. It also states that a still larger turtle has since been found in Newcastle harbor, New South Wales.

A LETTER from Susquehanna Co. Pa., says the apple worm has devastated that part of the State and is passing westward near the Ohio boundary.

THE details of the distress prevailing in Hungary, and generally in the eastern provinces of Austria, are truly heartrending. In the Bukovina, especially, misery drives the inhabitants to the very last extremities, parents offering to sell their children that the little ones should not die of hunger.

DURING a thunder shower, July 8, the lightning struck the dwelling of George Fairbanks, in Hudson, Mass., killing his daughter Emma, aged 13, and prostrating the other members of the family, but not fatally. The lightning also killed several cattle in the neighborhood.

DURING a tempest of thunder and lightning, July 8, the lightning struck the house of Charles Whiting, in Forestville, Conn., instantly killing Mr. Whiting and his son. Mrs. Whiting was seriously injured, and, though she still lives, it is doubtful if she will recover. She and Mr. Whiting sat on a sofa, and her son on a chair near by.

As an illustration of the hard times in Richmond, the *Examiner* says, one can easily put a five cent loaf of the bakers in each cheek, a ten cent loaf in the middle, and whistle Yankee Doodle with surprising clearness.

THE Lunatic Asylum at Stockton, California, is crowded with the insane, and rarely a day passes without bringing fresh accessions. The subject is worthy the attention of physicians outside the hospital.

The Mint Commissioners have caused a handsome flag-staff, 75 feet in height to be erected on the Mint premises. That locality is the liveliest part of the city, and, as the work progresses will be more so.—[*Carson Appeal*, 21st.

A BILL.—A certain church in the city of New York, being without a pastor, invited a somewhat distinguished divine from Central New York to supply their pulpit for two Sabbaths. The minister complied, and when his mission was ended the trustees sent him thirty dollars in "legal tender." He accepted the amount, and left with a friend the following bill:

The Trustees of the Church.	To I. O.—Dr.
For preaching two Sabbaths.....	\$50
Expenses to New York and returning.....	18
Nine days' board.....	27
	\$95
Cr. By Cash.....	30
	\$65
Balance due.....	\$65

We have not heard whether the bill is paid yet.

KEEP THE ROSES IN BLOOM.—As soon as the flowers have opened and bloomed one day, the decaying flower should be cut away; cutting back to a good strong bud, from which will come a new stem and flowers. Attention to this practice of cutting will keep plants blooming almost continually.

## Varieties.

—Knowledge, planted by the hands of affection in the hollowed sanctuary of home, takes deeper root than "seed sown by the wayside."

—"Jake," said an old farmer one day to his mower, "do you know how many horns there are in a dilemma?" "Well, no, I don't 'zactly," replied Jake, "but I know 'zactly how many there are in a quart of good old Monongahela."

—A farmer, passing through a village, stabbed a dog that attacked him, with a pitchfork. Upon being carried before a justice, he was asked why he did not strike the cur with the butt of his weapon? "So I should," replied he, "if the dog had run at me with his tail."

—"Dar are," said a sable preacher, addressing his brethren, "two roads tro' dis world. De one am a broad and narrow road dat leads to perdition, and de oder am a narrow and broad road dat leads to sure destruction." "If dat am de kase," said a sable hearer, "dis culled individual takes to de woods."

—A lady, whose style of piety was more affected than attractive, once took a friend to task for wearing feathers. "But," said the friend, "why are my feathers any more objectionable than the brilliant artificial flowers in your own bonnet?" "Oh," replied the censorious lady, "Christians must draw the line somewhere, and I draw it at feathers!"

—An awkward ill-dressed countryman, who was strolling about the Park the other day, attracted considerable attention, on account of his absurd appearance. Becoming conscious at last of the fact, he turned to a gentleman who was looking at him with open-mouth surprise, and exclaimed: "Holloo, mister, if you keep your mouth so wide open, you'll sunburn your teeth," and walked away triumphant, amid the laughter his sally called forth.

—A boy was tempted by some of his companions to pluck some ripe cherries from a tree his father had forbidden him to touch.—"You need not be afraid," said they, "for if your father should find out you had taken them, he is so kind he would not hurt you."

—"That is the very reason," replied the boy, "why I should not touch them. It is true my father would not hurt me, yet my disobedience, I know, would hurt my father, and that would be worse to me than anything else."

In the hight of mosquito time the little rascals practiced their songs nightly, to the annoyance of every one. While a little girl, Ettie, about five years old, was being put to bed, her mother said to her: "Ettie, you must always be a good girl, and then at night, when you are asleep, the angels will come, and sing, and watch around your bed." "O, yes, ma," said Ettie, "I know that; I heard them singing all around my head last night, and some of them bit me to."

—A clergyman called to visit a woman who was calmly waiting her departure. She expressed her resignation to depart. "But," said the minister "are you willing to be damned forever for the glory of God?" "No sir," she softly whispered, "I cannot say that." The afflicted husband, who stood by the bedside listening to the conversation, moved by the impulse of his nature, stepped up to the interrogator and said: "Are you willing to be thus damned?" "Yes," was the reply. "Then sir there is the door, go and be damned, and let my wife depart in peace."

—The instant you enter a house, whether rich or poor, you know whether it belongs to a clever housekeeper or not. It is not in the kind or amount of property and furniture, but it is in its disposition, in the art with which every thing is made to look its best. She is never taken at a disadvantage. She it is who keeps the house on those fabulous sums which drive the more lavish housewives to despair, and cause a frenzy of admiration in their less fortunate possessors, yet who always has a well-filled larder, and can produce a better supply at a moment's notice than many others with double her weekly allowance. With her hands full to overflowing, she never lets fall the smallest remnant of duty, and even contrives to hold to the skirts of some pleasure as well; she finds time for every thing she has to do, and a proper place for everything she has to keep; she is never hurried, but punctual, timely, and exact. The clever housekeeper has rarely unruly children. Industrious herself, she compels others to be industrious as well, and thus cuts off a large source of rebellion and disaffection.

## NOVELS.

The N. Y. *Evening Post*, of July 4, very properly condemns the "sensational" romances of the day, specifying, as very objectionable, "Griffith Gaunt," "Armada," "Plain John Orpington" (now being printed in London), "Great-heart" (also issued in London), hits Dickens's "Mutual Friend" pretty hard, says:—

The feeble imitators who follow—at a long distance—in the footsteps of the greater "sensation" novelists, are to be traced through most of the weekly "story papers" of London and New York. Murder, robbery, burglary, incest, poisonings, crimes of every description, run riot through columns of the wretched drivel of these scribblers; and the illustrations which accompany the text are of the lowest order.

and concludes as follows:—

It will, perhaps, be said, in defence of the "sensation" novel, that the writer who plays upon the worst chords reveals vice in glaring colors only to make it odious; and that the ultimate triumph of virtue teaches a salutary lesson. But the readers of the latest works of the Reades and Collinses and Braddons will find little or nothing to compensate for the disgust created by pictures which are simply revolting. The morbid appetite which craves such reading should be discouraged, and our publishers can do their part by refusing to issue the book.

We most heartily subscribe to the good sense of the above closing sentence of the *Post's* article on that whole class of reading matter, and ask if there are any in Utah who are unwise enough to spend their money for and worse than waste their time in reading such insufferably stupid and corrupting trash as are nearly all the novels and quite all the novelettes published and being published.

—He that would please all, and himself too, undertakes what he cannot do.

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