

BREVITIES.

Take the humbug out of this world and you won't have much left to do with.

Steam has been defined as a bucket of water in a tremendous perspiration.

The young King of Greece is accused of the degrading vice of drunkenness.

Matches are now made with sodium instead of phosphorus. It ignites as easily, and is free from offensive odors.

The only chance for some men's hats ever to contain anything valuable is to pass them round for pennies.

Wear your learning like a watch, in a private pocket, and don't endeavor to show it unless you are asked what o'clock it is.

Marshall Niel died from a most cruel disease—an affection of the bladder, which entailed fearful sufferings on its victim.

In Provincetown, Massachusetts, boys have mutilated the soldier's monument, breaking off the emblems and chipping off small fragments.

A family in Portland, Me., have some curious little prairie dogs, sent as a present from the West, and the little fellows have dug their burrows in the back yard, and present a comical picture peeping from their holes.

The latest smartness of a New York pictorial is a cut representing a railroad conductor sticking his head in the car at Indianapolis and shouting, "Fifteen minutes for divorces."

"John, John!" shouted an old gentleman to his son; "get up, the day is breaking." "Very well," said John, "let it break—it owes us nothing." In interval of twenty minutes, "John, John!" here, the son is up before you. "Very well," said John; "he has farther to go than we have."

A beggar recently called at the house of one of the citizens of Portland (Me.) for something to eat, and was highly indignant because the people were not willing to make him a cup of tea to accompany his food. He roundly abused the city and the State, and said that he knew beforehand that they were mean.

To clarify sugar place four pounds of sugar in one quart of water, and the beaten whites of two eggs; stir well together before putting on the fire. When it comes to a boil, throw in a little cold water, the scum will remain on the top, and can be easily removed with a perforated skimmer. Boil up and skim three times, and put in the fruit.

To preserve apples cut up a quantity of pippins, take the pairings and cores and boil them by themselves for an hour; strain the water from them, and add to it the sliced fruit; put it into an enameled saucepan over a slow fire, and let it simmer until the apples are done; then add a pound and a half of sugar to each quart of fruit. Let it boil gently for an hour and a half, taking care that it does not burn.

The eccentric Elder M——, well known to many as an active and earnest Baptist preacher, once said from the pulpit: "They say there's no family government now-a-days. But there is—I tell you there is—just as much as there ever was; but, leaning over the pulpit and lowering his voice into a quiet and confidential tone, the difference is, when I grew up, the old folks governed the young ones, now the young ones govern the old ones!"

An exchange gives the following as an excellent recipe for bottling fruit. To nine pounds of fruit put five pounds of white sugar, when it comes to a boil. Boil ten minutes. Be careful to stir the fruit as little as possible not to cool. Pour into an earthen ware vessel to cool. When cold put it in wide mouthed bottles, and cover with a bladder. Gooseberries, black currants, red currants, raspberries mixed, made last year, you can hardly tell it from fresh fruit. This recipe for currants, raspberries and plums of all kinds is specially recommended.

A soldier whose regiment lay in a garrison town in England, was about to be brought before his commanding officer for some offence. He was an old offender, and had been often punished. "Here he is again!" said the officer on his name being mentioned. "Flogging—disgrace—solitary confinement—everything—has been tried with him." Whereupon the sergeant stepped forward, and apologizing for the liberty he took, said: "There is one thing which has never been done with him yet sir." "What is that?" said the officer. "Well sir," said the sergeant, "he has never been forgiven." "Forgiven!" exclaimed the colonel, surprised at the suggestion. He reflected for a few minutes, ordered the culprit to be brought in, and asked him what he had to say to the charge? "Nothing, sir," was his reply. "Only, I am sorry for what I have done." Turning a kind and pitiful look on the man, who expected nothing else than that his punishment would be increased with the repetition of his offence, the colonel addressed him saying: "Well, we have tried everything with you, and now we are resolved to—forgive you!" The soldier was struck dumb with amazement! The tears started in his eyes, and he wept like a child. He was humbled to the dust, and thanking his officer, he retired. To be the old, refractory incorrigible man? Not from that day forward, he was a new man. He who told us his story had him for ten years under his eye, and a better conducted man never wore the Queens colors. In him kindness out one whom harshness could not break. The man was conquered by mercy, and melted by love.

Have you to do with one with whom you have tried every kind of punishment in vain? The next time you are going to strike the blow, say your hand, and say, "Well, I have tried everything with you; now I am resolved to forgive you."

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