

Darwinism in the Kitchen.

I was taken' off my bennet
One afternoon, at three,
When a hineset jumped upon it
As proved to be a flea.

Then I takes it to the grate,
Between the bars to stick it;
But I hadn't long to wait
Bec it changed into a cricket.

Says I, "Surely my senses
Is a gettin' in a fog!"
So to drown it I commences,
When it halts to a frog.

Here my heart began to thump,
And no wonder I felt flunky;
For the frog, with one big jump,
Leaped himself into a monkey.

Then I opened wide my eyes
His features for to scan,
And observed with great surprise
That that monkey was a man.

But he vanished from my sight,
And I sunk upon the floor,
Jest as missis, with a light,
Come inside the kitchen door.

Then beginnin' to abuse me,
She says, "Sarah you've been drinkin'!"
I says, "No mum, you'll excuse me,
But I've merely been a thinkin'."

"But, as sure as I'm a cinder,
That party what you see
A gittin' out of the winder,
Have developed from a flea."

NEWS NOTES.

There are twenty thousand school teachers in Illinois.

Scarlet rash is making all the juveniles in East Oregon uncomfortable.

A little boy in Albany bit his tongue while rocking in a chair, and bled to death.

The people in the country this winter pump water with an axe and bring it home in a basket.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

"Happy he who has done nothing to make himself famous," says the *New York Tribune*. "In these days of gossip obscurity is actually delicious."

Tens of thousands of bushels of potatoes and apples have been ruined during the cold weather recently, in cellars that were never known to freeze before, in the east.

They are very accommodating out in Utah. Under a law of that Territory a person convicted of a capital crime is given his choice whether to die by the rope, the bullet, or the guillotine.—*Ex.*

At Newgate, London, executions are now performed with a low gallops, the condemned man standing on a trap door level with the ground, and the door falling into a pit at a given signal.

An exchange advances the grave opinion that "the winter has been a long and tedious one, but there is every reason to believe that it will come to an end, and be succeeded by warm weather and Spring."

Three thousand bird nests have been distributed at various points in the parks of Paris. They are made for the sparrow, titmouse, cuckoo, blackbird, magpie and others—and in the forms respectively as the birds make them for themselves.

The North Carolina house of representatives considered the resolution of expulsion of J. Wm. Thorne, member from Warren County, in three night sessions, on account of his non-belief in the existence of God, as set forth in a pamphlet issued by him. They voted on it at 12 o'clock Wednesday night (Feb. 24); resulting—yeas, 46; nays, 31.

Lately the French government sold a large quantity of arms by weight—that is, for the old metal, and on condition that the purchasers were to break them up or melt them. But, alas, they did not do it, and the police have recently seized from them 10,000 lbs of bayonets, which they were selling.

We have known persons, habitual sufferers from restlessness at night, to experience material benefit, even though they were not hungry, by a very light luncheon before bedtime. In place of tossing about for two or three hours as formerly, they would soon grow drowsy, fall asleep, and not awake more than once or twice until sunrise. This mode of treating insomnia has recently been recommended by several distinguished physicians, and the prescription has generally been attended with happy results.—*Scribner.*

Useful Receipts for the Shop, the Household and the Farm.

Frosted glass, useful for screens, etc., is made by laying the sheets horizontally and covering them with a strong solution of sulphate of zinc. The salt crystallizes on drying.

A teaspoonful of powdered borax dissolved in a quart of tepid water is good for cleaning old black dresses of silk, cashmere or alpaca.

Butter will remove tar spots. Soap and water will afterwards take out the grease stain.

Black shoes may be bronzed by a strong solution of aniline red in alcohol.

Four parts borax and three parts Epsom salts, mixed with three or four parts warm water to one part of the combined substances, is said to form an excellent fireproof wash for clothes. It should be used immediately after preparation.

Flaxseed and tallow are used in Germany as a stuffing for cushions. One part of tallow to ten parts of flaxseed are employed, the mobility of the greased seed rendering the cushion very soft and pliable.

Gold bronze for furniture is a mixture of copal varnish mixed with gold-colored bronze powder. The last is bisulphate of tin.

The total number of strings in a piano, when properly stretched to produce the right tones, exert a pull of over ten tons; this explains why good pianos must be durably and heavily built.

To prevent moths in carpets, wash the floor before laying them with spirits of turpentine or benzine.

Straw matting should be washed with a cloth dampened in salt water. Indian meal sprinkled over it and thoroughly swept out will also cleanse it finely.

In washing windows, a narrow-bladed wooden knife sharply pointed, will take out the dust that hardens in the corners of the sash. Dry whiting will polish the glass, which should first be washed with weak black tea mixed with a little alcohol. Save the tea leaves for the purpose.

Gray marble hearths can be rubbed with linseed oil, and no spots will show.

Sprigs of wintergreen or ground ivy will drive away red ants; branches of wormwood will serve the same purpose for black ants.

Papering and painting are best done in cold weather, especially the latter, for the wood absorbs the oil of paint much more in warm weather; while in cold weather the oil hardens on the outside, making a coat which will protect the wood instead of soaking into it.

Old paper can be got off by damping with salaratus and water. Go over all the cracks of the wall with plaster of Paris, and finally put on a wash of a weak solution of carbolic acid. The best paste is made out of rye flour, with two ounces of glue dissolved in each quart of paste; half an ounce of powdered borax improves the mixture.

An eaken color can be given to new pine floors and tables by washing them in a solution of copperas dissolved in strong lye, a pound of the former to a gallon of the latter. When dry, this should be oiled, and it will look well for a year or two; then renew the oiling.

Kerosene and powdered lime, whiting, or wood ashes will scour tiles with the least labor.

Spots can be taken out of marble with finely powdered pumicestone mixed with verjuice. Cover the spots and allow the stuff to remain for twelve hours; then rub clean, dry and rinse.

Soapstone hearths are first washed in pure water and then rubbed with powdered marble or soapstone, put on with a piece of the same stone.

A strong solution of hyposulphite of soda is said to be excellent for cleaning silver.

Two ounces of common tobacco boiled in a gallon of water is used by the Chatham street dealers for renovating old clothes. The stuff is rubbed on with a stiff brush. The goods are nicely cleaned, and, strange to add, no tobacco smell remains.

Never use wrought iron instead of steel simply because it is more easily worked and cheaper than the latter; nor brass instead of gun metal in heavy machinery.

Shellac is the best cement for jet articles. Smoking the joint renders it black to match.

Barrels intended for alcohol may be rendered perfectly tight by applying inside a solution of 1 lb. leather scraps and 1 oz. oxalic acid

in 2 lbs. water, afterwards diluted with 3 lbs. warm water.

A solution of chloride of iron will remove nitrate of silver stains from the hands.

Unslacked lime is excellent for cleaning small steel articles, such as jewelry, buckles, and the like.

Glass may be powdered to render it suitable for glass paper, for filtering varnishes, etc., by heating it red hot and then suddenly plunging it in water.

To remove old paint, cover with a wash of three parts quick stone lime, slaked in water, to which one part pearlash is added. Allow the coating to remain for sixteen hours, when the paint may be easily scraped off.—*Scientific American.*

Pacific Slope Timber Lands.

PROVISIONS OF THE HOUSE BILL FOR THE SALE OF TIMBER LAND IN CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND THE TERRITORIES.

WASHINGTON, February 23.—The bill providing for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon and the Territories came up in the House to-day and passed. Its provisions are:

Surveyed lands not reserved, and which are valuable chiefly for timber but unfit for cultivation, and which have not been offered at public sale, may be sold to citizens or persons who have declared their intention so to be in quantities not exceeding 160 acres to any person, incorporation or association of persons, and in all other territories of the United States not exceeding 40 acres to any one person, corporation or association of persons, at the minimum price of \$2.50 per acre, provided that nothing therein contained shall defeat or impair any bona fide claim under any law of the United States, or authorize the sale of any mining claim or improvements of any bona fide settlers, or lands containing mineral or coal, or lands selected by said States under any law of the United States donating lands for internal improvements, education or other purposes; and provided further, that none of the rights conferred by the Act approved July 26, 1866, entitled "An Act granting the right of way to ditch and canal owners over public lands and for other purposes," shall be abrogated by this Act, and all patents granted shall be subject to any vested and accrued water rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may have accrued under and by the provisions of said Act, and such rights shall be expressly reserved in any patent issued under this Act.

Section 2 provides that all patents granted shall be subject to any vested and accrued water right or rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may have accrued under and by the provisions of said Act, and such rights shall be expressly reserved in any patent issued under this Act.

Section 3 provides that any person desiring to avail himself of the provision of this Act shall file with the Register of the proper district a written statement in duplicate, one of which is to be transmitted to the General Land Office, designating by legal subdivisions the particular tract of land he desires to purchase, setting forth that the same is unfit for cultivation and valuable chiefly for its timber; that it is uninhabited, contains no mining nor other improvements, except for ditch or canal purposes, save such as were made by or belong to the applicant, and that deponent has made no other application; that he does not apply to purchase the same on speculation, but in good faith, and to appropriate to his own exclusive use and benefit, and not for sale, and that he has not made any agreement or contract with any person whatever, by which the title which he might acquire from the Government should inure to the benefit of any person except himself, which statement shall be verified by the oath of the applicant before the Register or Recorder of the Land Office within the district where the land is situated; and if any person on taking such oath shall swear falsely he shall be subject to all the pains and penalties of perjury and shall forfeit the money paid for said lands, and all right and title to the same, and any grant or conveyance which he may have made, except in the

hands of bona fide purchasers, shall be null and void.

Section 4 provides that upon the filing of an application the Register of the Land Office shall post a notice of such application, embracing a description of the land, for a period of sixty days, and the applicant shall publish the same, and if no adverse claim shall then have been filed, the person desiring to purchase shall furnish to the Register of the Land Office satisfactory evidence, first, that said notice of application was duly published; and second, that the land is of the character contemplated in this Act, and without improvements other than those excepted, either mining or agricultural, and that it apparently contains no valuable deposits of gold, silver, cinnabar, copper or coal; and upon payment to the proper officer of the purchase money of said land, together with the fees of the Register and the Receiver, the applicant may be permitted to enter said tract, and on transmission to the General Land Office of the papers and testimony in the case, a patent shall issue thereon: provided that, if a person having a valid claim to any portion of said land may object in writing to the issuance of a patent of the lands so held by him, stating the nature of his claim thereto, evidence shall be taken and the merits of said objection shall be determined by the officers of the Land Office, subject to appeal as in other land cases.—*S. F. Chronicle.*

The Degradation of the Sabbath.

Upon this subject the *New York Tribune* says that without bringing into play any theological considerations whatever, we hold that it is against the public interests that the distinction between Sunday and other days should be abolished. Rest on one day in seven is absolutely necessary for the mental and bodily health of all who labor, and it is not worth while to take into account the indefinitely small number of those who do no work. It is only vicious vagrants and rich idlers who would suffer from the cessation of every-day life on Sundays, and their distress should call for no sympathy. For all others Sunday is a most valuable and salutary institution. It causes a break in the wearying and destructive pursuits of life. It changes those currents of busy thought which seem to have something corroding in them. It gives one day for the recuperation of the vital forces wasted in the preceding six. These are its obvious physical advantages, but incalculably greater are its moral. Despite the sneers of little wits, and the more redoubtable assaults of iconoclastic thinkers, the good which is done by regular church-going is beyond computation. The preachers are not always wise or eloquent—they are sometimes even offensive to taste and repulsive to sound reason. But the vast majority are good and earnest men, who deliver not only their own thoughts, but the messages of an army of witnesses, of transcendent power and purity, on subjects of the most momentous importance. For an hour or two at least in every week the church-goer is brought face to face with great and lofty thoughts, is forced to contemplate a series of images and symbols which have done more for the world than a thousand legions of soldiers could do, and is made to meditate with more or less earnestness upon his personal relations to his Creator and his fellow-men. There is no rule by which we can compute the sum of the result. The good resolutions formed, the evil purposes relinquished, the hearts quickened to higher ends and softened to works of charity and kindness, on every Sunday in this country, are simply past our imagining. The music of the thousands of bells that fill the air of a morning is an audible and evident expression of a common sentiment as sweet as it is ennobling; but there is a far deeper harmony in the millions of prayers ascending at the same moment from the earth bearing unutterable sorrows and aspirations of men.

It may be said that Sunday amusements will not interfere with the rest and the worship to which the day has been hitherto devoted. But it is a sufficient answer to this, first, that the prevalence of such amusements has a direct tendency to diminish church-going, especially among the young, who could hardly be expected to resist the temptations held out to them by

pleasures which appeal to their strongest inclinations. And secondly, if such amusements become general they will employ a vast number of persons, to whom Sunday will cease at once and finally to be "day of rest." The just instinct of irreligious people leads them to allow a certain degree of repose on Sundays to those whom they employ. The community ought to allow to its servants, who furnish its diversions, the same opportunity for rest and recreation. The little additional money they would earn by playing every night in the week would be but a poor compensation for what they would lose. In their interest as well as in that of the public good, we hope that the attempt to secularize our Sundays may not succeed. It is hostile to all our traditions. The Christian Sunday is as much an Anglo-Saxon possession as trial by jury. It would be a national calamity to see it—we will not say discredited but—degraded.

Caught by the Carlists.

Mr. G. A. Sala, who specially represents the *London Telegraph* in Spain, thus describes how he was caught by the Carlists—

"At Lerida, we were to lunch, or rather take breakfast, lunch, and dinner in one, trusting to luck and Saragossa for anything in the way of supper. But there came an ugly slip betwixt the cup of Manresa and the lip of Lerida. Somehow I could not sleep. The train seemed to me to be jerking backwards and forwards, then darting ahead, and then 'trying back' again as though it did not know its own mind—or the engine driver did not know his. We passed a station called Rajadell, and between this and the next the behavior of the train became more eccentric and unwarrantable. Presently—it was about twelve o'clock—we slackened speed, jerked backwards and forwards again, made another limp in advance, and then came to a sudden halt. Then arose a confused cry of alarm from the passengers, and the women in the remote third-class cars began to squeal. There was something wrong, evidently. Then the whistle sounded, but in a depressed, shamefaced, hangdog tone, and we crawled forward about fifty yards to find that something was very wrong indeed, and that we had been caught by the Carlists."

"It would have done the eyes of Sir John Gilbert good to have beheld the wonderful panorama of picturesque rapsallions suddenly revealed from either window of the compartment in which I was placed. How the pencil of our brave English artist would have rejoiced in delineating these splendid outlaws! Fine dashing fellows they really were—tall of stature, brawny of limb, well set up and all, in military phrase, "as fit as fiddles" for marching, and fighting, and robbing the mail. I noticed that many of their number—nearly one half—were neither sallow nor swarthy, but fair, auburn-haired, and with blue eyes. They were a bullet-headed race generally, and such a remarkable similarity of physiognomy as existed among them I never yet observed in any aggregation of humanity—not even in a camp-meeting of negroes. Their officers were far less comely to look upon, being, as a rule, dark, beetle-browed, and careworn-looking. There was an entire absence of stars and crosses from the breasts of both officers and men, who, for the rest, looked in excellent health and spirits, and were all intolerably dirty. One gentleman I did indeed notice—a captain, I think—who was a bit of a dandy in his way—that is to say, he wore spurs, although the toes of his boots were in a dreadful demoralized condition. He had an eye-glass, the ends of his dusty moustaches were symmetrically twisted, and between his coat collar and his chin there appeared the faintest suspicion of about a quarter of an inch of shirt. We were in 'the Alderman's walk,' so to speak, of an enormous petrified haunch of venison, at which nature, assisted by railway engineers, and their navvies and blasting implements, had been officiating as carvers. In other words the rails ran in a dark narrow line along the base of a huge stony ravine, and on either side, on the grades of a natural amphitheatre, the Carlists were grouped by twos and threes, and tens and scores. They were clad in almost every conceivable variety of apparel, but in two items their custom was uniform. They