any longer. There is plenty of moisture from the clouds, but this does not help the matter. It only serves to cut up the surface into gulfies, and to wash out the last lingering elements of fertility. Hundreds of thousands of acres of such lands are found to-day on which irrigation would be useless, and which nothing but a thorough system of manuring could restore to fertility. Under ordinary con-ditions, this is so expensive that very few have resorted to it, the cost of virgin soil being far less than that of restoring the "old field" by means of fertilizers. No part of the soil of California, however, has reached that condition and some years must elapse before it will do so. But it must be borne in mind that every crop raised necessarily reduces the natural fertility of the soil, and that irrigation, which acts only as a stimulant, and not as a supporter of vegetable

not as a supporter of vegetable growth, would only serve to promote great crops for the present at the expense of the soil itself. The time is coming, therefore, when fertilizers must supplement irriga-tion if our fields are to retain their fertility. This is not only theoret-ically evident, but it has been de-monstrated on a most lavish and wasteful scale in all, or nearly all, the old States of the Union. The Genesee and Mohawk valleys in New York, the Western Reserve in Ohio, the banks of the James and Potomac rivers in Virginia, prove every day to the eye and the purse of the farmers that the fertility of their fields is growing "small by degrees and beautifully less." No degrees and beautifully less." No system of irrigation could prevent the gradual deterioration of their land, nor could anything arrest it excepting a cessation of constant cropping and a liberal application of fertilizers. These are considerations which should enter into every farmer's calculations who does not think it right to leave to his sons the curse of a barren inheritance.—

S. F. Chronicle.

BREVITIES.

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We have frequently and found them in excellent examination, and found them in excellent we have given them at brought to examination, and found them in excellent we have given them at brought to examination, and found them in excellent we

"How did you like my sermon?" said a vain clergyman to a distin-guished chance listener. "Ah, sir, guished chance listener. "Ah, sir, there was one beautiful passage."
"Yes, yes," said the Dominie delightedly, rubbing his hands; "and which was that?" "The passage from the pulpit to the vestry."

The West Point cadet laughs because the Vassar girl ran screaming from fright at the recent sham fight. Let the cadet marry that timid Vassar girl, and in six months he will take off his boots in the hall when he comes in nights, for fear she will tear the scalp off him.

Beston Old Meid-Nobody loves

Beston Old Maid—Nobody loves me, my dear Mr. Witherington, nobody.
Young Fellow—Yes, Miss Warren, God loves you, and your mother loves you.
Boston Old Maid—Mr. Wither-

ington, let's go in. Indulgent husband (to dear little

There are 1,600 convents and monasteries inhabited by 21,000 monks and nuns in Belgium. The income of the religious orders in that kingdom is one hundred millions of dollars. Germany is poor, and German financiers would like to get hold of the money, on the ground that Belgians are true Germans and dishonestly usurped such a pile of money.

"William," observed a Danbury woman to her husband, "Mrs. Holcomb feels pretty badly since the loss of her child, and I wish you would drop over there and see her. You might say that all flesh is grass, that we've all got to go the same way; and see if she is going to use her dripping pan this afternoon."—Danbury News.

A lady was telling a friend from the country of a very grand party she had given recently. "We had two generals, ene judge, a popular author and a play writer." "Yes," chimed in her wicked son, "and there was a deputy sheriff, too, who said he wanted to see dad, and they went out before supper, and dad hasn't got home yet."

A farmer dropped in one day to pay his rent, putting on a long face to correspond with the times. On entering the house he told the landlord that, times being so bad, he could not raise the money at all, and dashed a bundle of notes on the table. "There" wet he titled to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter de Saints, by Parley P. Pratt. Im. mor occo, 31 50; full cloth, embossed, 10 SPENCER'S LETTERS. Letters exhibit ing the most Prominent Describes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Letters. the landlerd, who said, "Why, this is twice as much as you owe." "Dang it! give it me again," said the farmer; "I'm dashed if I ain't took it out of the wrong pocket."

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