

BREVITIES.

Theodore Tilton is 34 years old.

Old men are mowed down but babies are cradled.

The king of Bavaria is said to live nearly exclusively on eggs and lager beer.

One of the Cary sisters is an invalid, and writes all her poems in her sick chamber.

Mr. Joseph Jefferson is said to have paid Mr. Boucicault \$5,000 for his interest in "Rip Van Winkle."

There is no surer mark of the absence of the highest moral and intellectual qualities than a cold reception of excellence.

A St. Louis husband applied for a divorce on the ground that his wife made him fast continually, for religious purposes.

Electricity is now talked of as a cure for sufferers from trichine spirals.

The coffin in which Giulia Gris was buried, at Pere-la-Chaise, Paris, cost not less than fifteen thousand francs.

There is a professorship of the Irish language in the Roman Catholic University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

The wives of over a hundred convicts at Cayenne have petitioned the French Minister of Justice to be allowed to rejoin their husbands in that penal colony.

"What will become of you if you do not tell the truth?" asked a Sunday school teacher of one of his pupils.

"I'll be sent to Chicago," promptly replied the lad.

A lady in Circleville, O., lately, got up her silver wedding party, sent out several hundred invitations, and after the party, complained that she did not receive presents enough to make the cost of the supper.

In the Iowa Asylum for the blind there are at present forty-two males and forty females. It is estimated that there are in the State six hundred blind persons.

The yolk of an egg thoroughly mixed with a spoonful of spirits of turpentine is recommended as a plaster for sore backs of horses. Cover with a soft oiled cloth, and in fly time anoint with oil.

It is the practice of many English farmers never to allow two white straw crops, such as wheat, oats, barley and rye, to follow each other.

There are now living in Baltimore County, Md., five brothers, the youngest of whom is 73, and the oldest 80, who served in the same company in the war of 1812, and have never received a pension.

A new Yankee notion combines in a small space, and less than an ounce weight, no less than twelve different tools. It is at once a pocket-rule, ruler, square, bevel, screw driver, chisel, compasses, scissors, button-hole cutter, paper-knife, eraser and pencil sharpener.

Spain's lawyer in this country is Sidney Webster, a son-in-law of Secretary Fish. His salary is \$40,000 in gold. He hires spies and detectives for the government of Spain, and is the adviser in contract purchases of arms, munitions of war and commissary supplies.

A Frenchman, who was exhibiting some relics and other curiosities, produced among other things a sword which he assured his visitors was "do sword dat Balaam had." A spectator remarked that Balaam had no sword, but only wished for one. "Ver well, dis is de one he wished for."

French statisticians assert that the mortality among women has decreased 18 1/2 per cent, since corsets went out of fashion, but that brain diseases have increased among them at the fearful rate of 72 3/4 per cent, since chignons and other pyramidal ornaments came into vogue.

It is said that Mr. Disraeli has a peculiarity of signing all his letters "D," simply, so that his autograph is scarcer than any living statesman's. "It is supposed," says the Post, "this is to show that he has severed the connection with Israel."

Sir John Herschel always maintained that the moon was a furnace—so hot a place that nothing could live under its torrid influences. Captain John Ericson, whose ability no one disputes, declares that the moon's surface is one mass of solid ice. When such men disagree, who shall decide?

A correspondent of the Church Union is looking carefully into Bible chronology to ascertain whether Methuselah was drowned by the flood or whether he died in his bed. The question is somewhat mixed in his mind, but he expresses a hope that he died a natural death, "for it would have been awful to live so long and be drowned after all."

The Rev. Dr. Noah H. Schenck, a clergyman well-known in Chicago, delivered a lecture in New York City, lately, on "Names." He commenced with Alexander the Great, and spoke of names that would live forever—immortal names—and also names that were perishable, but unfortunately closed his remarks with the following conundrum:

"Does anyone suppose that if I had had my way about it, I would have named myself Noah?"

"No," responded a voice, "nor Schenck, either."

A young English lady, making her first visit to the city of New York, assisted in the New Year's receptions at her host's home in Fifth Avenue, but knowing nothing of the customs of the country, she asked for instructions as to the usual manner of proceeding.

"Oh, you must do just as you see us do," said the ladies of the household.

Now it happened that the first caller was a brother-in-law of the young ladies, and he was rapturously received, wished a happy New Year and affectionately kissed. The young English lady stood aghast when she thought of the hundred or more like receptions which were to come, and in which she was to take part. When the matter was finally explained she said:

"Oh, pah! I had just made up my mind to do it!"

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