

BREVITIES.

Lord Derby made the munificent sum of \$245 by his translation of Homer, and he has given it all to a college.

The Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railroad is said to be so crooked that you can shake hands with the engineer about half the time.

A young gentleman of Logansport, Ind., has sued a barber for spoiling his moustache in trying to color it, and laid his damages at \$50.

A medical student says he has never been able to discover the bone of contention, and desires to know whether it is not situated very near the jaw-bone.

The Netherlands are digging an important canal between Amsterdam and the North sea, fifteen miles, and don't calculate to get it done till 1875.

To keep a bouquet fresh, drop a tablespoonful of powdered charcoal into the water intended for the flower stalks, and it will keep its freshness and perfume, and look and smell the same as if just gathered.

Mr. J. H. Ellis, of Normal, Ill., has invented a method of canning fruits without heating, by simply pumping the air from the cans. It is said to work well. A patent has been issued for it.

A couple of fellows who were pretty thoroughly soaked with beer in New York, got into the gutter. After floundering about for a few minutes, one of them said: "Jim, let's go to another house—this hotel leaks."

Pigeons have been killed in New York State with carolina rice in their crop. From the known rapidity with which these birds accomplish the process of digestion, it is calculated that they must have flown 400 miles in six hours, or over a mile a minute.

Fruit stains may, it is said, be removed by moistening the article affected with a solution of hyposulphite of soda, and adding to it a little pulverized tartaric acid, which is to be rubbed on the stain, which will then soon begin to disappear, and the article can be cleaned with warm water.

St. Jerome mentions a woman who married twenty-two successive husbands, and the last husband had been married to twenty successive wives. Evelyn tells of a woman who was married twenty-five times, but was then prohibited from further marital conquests by law.

The announcement of an express train that shall run from Liverpool to London in four hours is a remarkable event. The distance is two hundred miles, and in order to make the fifty miles per hour it will be necessary to make it a through train—that is, to allow no stop between the two places. The necessity of stopping for water is obviated by mechanical means.

It makes Queen Victoria sea-sick to hold a levee. The London Medical Times and Gazette says: "We are not revealing medical secrets, but simply stating what is well known to all her Majesty's inner circle, that the presence of a crowd, or the succession of persons who are presented at Court, produces on her nervous system the giddiness and other symptoms common to landmen at sea."

A woman named Eleanor Kirk, representing the working women in New York, after attending a meeting of her sex, and exhausting her patience listening to discourses about the right of women to the ballot, rose and reminded the orators she had waited in vain to hear some practical suggestions for the relief of her toiling sisters. The ballot would feed no starving woman. The ballot would save no trembling sister from a life of shame. As to "the tyrant man," she said: "The wholesale denunciation of man was both discursive and unwomanly. God had not made a mistake in making the two genders, and for every mean man that the female slanderer would bring her, she would find his match in a mean woman."

Dickens, on one occasion, told the following story to prove that whatever trials and difficulties a man has to encounter, he has still left something to be thankful for: Two men were to be hanged at Newgate for murder. The morning arrived; the hour approached; the bell of St. Sepulcher's began to toll; the convicts were pinioned; the procession was formed; it advanced to the fatal beam; the ropes were adjusted around the poor men's necks; there were thousands of motley sight-seers of both sexes, of all ages, men, women and children, in front of the scaffold; when just at that second of time, a bell which was being driven to Smithfield, broke its rope and charged the mob right and left, scattering people every where with its horns. Whereupon one of the condemned men turned to his equally unfortunate companion and quietly observed: "I say, Jack; it's a good thing we ain't in that crowd."

A New York correspondent writes: Some time ago I met a gentleman who invited a small party of us to take a drink. The rest of the party accepted the invitation, and I went along to see how it was done. It was Sunday, and we were on Broadway; my friend led the way to the restaurant near by, but before he entered he asked the other drinkers what they would have. The question being settled, we entered and took seats at a table. Two cups of plain coffee, one plain tea, and one tea with milk, said the leader to the waiter who came forward. The youth disappeared, and soon came back with some tea-cups and spoons and some small and very innocent-looking pots. The coffee plain proved to be straight whiskey, the plain tea was clear brandy, and the tea with milk was brandy and water. The bill was paid, and the party took its cups in the serene confidence of having done nothing wrong.

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