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BREVITIES.

The debt of the city of Philadelphia is nearly \$40,000,000.

Russia now keeps up an army of 1,400,000 men.

Prussian distilleries last year consumed 6,750,000 bushels of grain and nearly 40,000,000 bushels of potatoes.

A Providence man has invented a machine for sewing books. It has been put in successful operation.

It is said that the best paid people on the earth are prima donnas, English bishops and patent medicine sellers.

The Erie Railway has now over four hundred engines. The company has ordered thirty new locomotives.

A steam shovel capable of doing the work of one hundred men, has just been put in use on one of the Illinois railroads, for the purpose of loading cars with gravel.

In the course of some late engineering works in France, a hot arsenical spring was discovered. The water contains nearly half a grain of arsenate of potash per litre—a portion unheard of before.

It is stated that in Philadelphia the mean velocity of the wind during the entire year is found to be about eleven miles an hour; at Toronto, its average velocity is nine miles, and at sea it is estimated at eighteen miles.

The Basin Mill, at Orono, Maine, is said to be the largest saw-mill in the world. It is 440 by 66 feet, has 4 gangs, 5 single, 2 circular saws, 5 lathe machines, one shingle and one clapboard machine, and turns out daily 200,000 feet of long lumber, 200,000 shingles and 4,000 clapboards. It is owned by the heirs of the late General Veazie, and rents for \$25,000 per year.

An English chemist claims to have discovered a method by which he can convert a human body into solid stone. This will do away with the necessity for sculptors. When we want to have a statue of a great man we only have to wait until he dies, then turn him into a stone and "set him up."

An industrious arithmetician has calculated that the \$500,000,000 worth of gold sold in Wall street on the memorable Friday, Sept. 24th, would, allowing sixteen dollars to an ounce and sixteen ounces to the pound and two thousand pounds to the ton and one ton to each cart, require a thousand carts to move it; and, allowing twenty feet to each horse and cart, the string of carts would be eight miles long.

The total annual amount of co-operative business in Belgium is estimated at \$12,000,000. The most of this is done through the co-operative banks, but a portion may be credited to the co-operative stores, which effect a saving to the workmen of from eleven to twenty-five per cent. on their purchases, and to industrial establishments, yielding to the employees, who are also copartners, a dividend of ten per cent.

A half-starved curate of the English Church gets irritated at the complaints which fill the papers about the wretched salaries of merchants and bankers' clerks and writes thus to the London Times: "Nepotism, political influence or purchase are our only passports to anything higher than the most meagre incumbencies, while it adds something to our disappointment to see lads put over our heads into the good livings. Let the clerks remember that there are hundreds of men, in many respects their superiors, who yet have lower pay and poorer prospects than themselves."

A well-known English writer on questions of interest to workmen, Mr. G. J. Holyoke, has been making some practical remarks on co-operation and industrial partnerships. Of the former system, he says: "No workmen, one hundred in number, ought to be without a co-operative store in any part of the country." He looks to industrial partnerships as affording the best hope for the artisan and laborer. "The fair consideration by the employer of the workman's interest, and the system very generally adopted. The workmen have an interest in preventing waste, and in doing their work well, for they are to share in the profits of the concern. At the Whitwood collieries, the men recently had £3000 to divide among them, over and above their wages. The employers received the same sum. With such a system in successful operation, strikes would be most uncommon instead of frequent.

Sharon Springs, N. Y., is said to have been the scene of a very amusing affair this summer. One fine morning the quiet of the bath-house, where visitors repair to bathe in the hot water of the springs which are powerfully impregnated with sulphur, was disturbed by the most piercing screams issuing from one of the bathing rooms: "Oh, mercy! mercy! What shall I do? Help! Oh! dear me! Save me! Oh! I am all changed!" "There was hurrying to and fro" and a rush in the direction from which came the screams, and the door of the apartment was battered in by those who fully expected to see a woman boiling to death from inability to shut off the boiling water by the stop-cock; instead of which, in the midst of the sulphurous vapor of the bath, stood one of the belles of the season holding her robes hastily gathered about her with one hand, and in the other a mirror, in which she was gazing, horror-stricken, at the startling apparition of her black face, neck and bare arms, which had assumed a rich mahogany tint, and were rapidly assuming that of a Nubian in blackness. In a word, the lady had a few days before anointed, and the action of the sulphur bath upon the chemicals used in the beautifying process caused this alarming change of complexion. She was calmed, bundled up in shawls and returned to her apartments, and the next day, by the first conveyance and behind a black veil, left the scene a changed woman.

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ROBT. L. CAMPBELL, Historian's Office.

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