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BREVITIES.

How did the bull look on emerging from the china shop? A little the worse for wear.

What relation does a tenant bear to his landlord? A parent-al relation.

"Darling, it's bedtime. All the chickens have gone to bed." "Yes, mamma, and so has the old hen."

What is it that Adam never saw, never possessed, and yet he gave to each of his children? Parents.

Chicago hack drivers get drunk and fight at funerals, and generally have another corpse ready by the time the old is planted.

There is a female law student in Chicago. Several enterprising young men propose that she shall engage in a specialty as daughter-in-law.

A veteran shopkeeper says that although his clerks are very talkative during the day, they are always ready to shut up at night.

A child at Mill Creek, Ind., cut a tooth weighing two pounds while playing with a pickaxe the other day. It was a mastodon's.

At a horseflesh depot in the Rue de la Roquette, Paris, notice is given: "Horse meat of first quality on sale from the stables of Compté de la Grange."

An old man in Saybrook, Connecticut, lives on a farm that was never bought or sold, it having come down to him from his ancestors, who obtained it from the Indians.

Narrow-minded men, who have not a thought beyond the sphere of their own jottings, remind one of the Hindoo maxim: "The snail sees nothing but its own shell, and thinks it the grandest place in the universe."

A citizen of Springfield, Massachusetts, has invented a new cartridge, which he moulds at one operation in a die chamber, to the exact size of the gun-bore for which it is intended.

The Mother's Friend says, "Never reprove a child harshly for drinking, or smoking, or chewing." No, never reprove him harshly. The only way to cure him is to thrash him within an inch of his life.

A jurymen was asked whether he had been charged by the judge. "Well," said he, "the little fellow that sits up in pulp and stares at the crowd, gave us a lecture, but I don't know whether he charges anything or not."

A man in Detroit told his boy, ten years old, to hold the lines while he went for a glass of beer. The boy waited about three hours, then drove to a hotel and ordered dinner, remarking: "The old man's on one of them drunks of his'n."

A couple of Iowa farmers, in Hardin county who went to law over a small difference of opinion about twenty-five dollars, several years ago, have just settled it and made up by selling both their farms to pay law costs. Those who dance must pay the fiddler.

The bonfire in front of Balmoral Castle, to celebrate the settlement of the marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, was composed of barrels of tar, birch and fire-wood, sawmill sweepings, etc. It measured upwards of a hundred feet in circumference at the base, and was nearly thirty feet in height. The light was applied to the pile by his Royal Highness, Prince Leopold.

Jesse Grant, the venerable father of the Government, is dissatisfied with the dingy corner-grocery-looking shop in which he has to perform his duties as postmaster of Covington, Ky., and has grieved his broad chest and his semi-centenarian beaver, and prepared himself for a winter season with the Washington lobby. He intends to get \$100,000 appropriated for a post office building in Covington, before he returns.

Sir Charles Wheatstone has just added to his many electrical inventions the completion of a printing instrument. This resembles a piano, having a keyboard of twenty-five notes, each answering to a letter in the alphabet, several of which can be used for stops and numbers. The most frequently occurring letters are situated toward the centre so that an operator need rarely move his hands from one position. Great speed is thus obtained, and the advantages of this invention are manifestly great, as, if necessary, a printed copy of the forwarded message can be had by the sender of the message.

Hall's Journal of Health says: One-third of the children born, die before they are two years old, three-fourths of these perish unnecessarily; perish as a consequence of the neglect or ignorance of mothers. Most infants are physicked and fed to death. No medicine whatever, not the modest "catnip tea," should be given to an infant without the direction of the family physician.

As to the foot, the practice in the moment an infant is noticed to cry, is to feed; the result is, that in less than a week the little thing cries often from cold than from hunger, which may often be known by its vomiting soon after it is fed, or by its refusing to take food; the great, the essential point, is to feed all children at regular intervals; from neglect of this, infants are made dyspeptic before they are a month old, and between alternate feeding and physicking, they go off in convulsions, water on the brain, or diarrhoea. Notice at whatever intervals food is necessary, and feed only at such times; the child being greater as the child gets older; next keep the child abundantly warm; keep it constantly clean; let it be in the open air every day, and never allow it to be showered or bathed in cold water.

By Telegraph.

Per WESTERN UNION Telegraph Line

An order issued for the destruction of French Forts!

CONGRESSIONAL.

HOUSE.

A resolution was introduced by Kellogg, of Connecticut, instructing the committee of ways and means to inquire into the expediency of the immediate repeal of the income tax. The House refused to second the previous question by sixty-four to seventy-one, and the resolution went over till Monday, January 9th.

The committee on military affairs to-day non-concurred in the Senate bill, extending the time from the 1st of January until the 1st of July, for the reduction of the army.

Beaman, from the committee on appropriations, reported a post office appropriation bill, and it was made the special order for to-morrow. The bill appropriates \$28,169,800; the principle items being—for inland transportation, \$12,000,329; for mail messengers, \$506,214; for route agents, \$788,569; for mail route messengers, \$39,404; for local agents, \$49,044; for railway post office clerks, \$585,938; for foreign mail transportation, \$400,000; for postmasters, \$5,100,000; for clerks in post offices, \$2,900,000; for letter carriers, \$1,500,000; for manufacture of adhesive postage stamps, \$9,000; for manufacture of stamped envelopes, \$514,200; for miscellaneous items, \$733,500; for steamship service between Japan and China, \$500,000; between the United States and Brazil, \$50,000; between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands, \$75,000.

A resolution was offered calling for information in regard to the purchase of bonds for the sinking fund. Rejected by 61 to 117.

Mr. Fitch moved to suspend the rules and have restored to the Speaker's table the Senate bill relating to the Central branch of the Pacific railway company, which was last session referred to the committee on public lands. The motion was rejected, yeas 115, nays 99, less than two-thirds voted in the affirmative.

WASHINGTON.

Nominations—Indian affairs. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19th. Advice from San Domingo, to Dec. 9th, announce the safety, after the recent terrible gale, of the United States naval vessels at that station. President Baer and staff had been taking a week's trip to Anzu and vicinity, on a United States steamer. The Cuban insurrection, backed by Hayti, was assuming formidable proportions.

Notwithstanding the interruption to the two English cables, the dispatches which have accumulated both in America and Europe for the past few days, have all been transmitted for the first time in two weeks. The cables are now clear.

The President to-day sent the following to the Senate: Andrew J. Simmons, Agent for the Blackfeet and other neighboring tribes; W. T. Warning, to be Assessor of Internal Revenue for New Mexico.

Ex-Senator Drake took the oath of office, and entered upon his duties as Chief Justice of the Court of Claims this morning.

The Superintendent of Indian affairs for new Mexico, William A. Commission-er Parker, from Santa Fe, on the 7th inst., with regard to the selection of a tract of country in the vicinity of Fort Stanton, N. M., for a reservation for the Apaches. He is convinced that this is the time for prompt action on the part of Government, and there is good reason to believe these Indians can be induced to settle upon reservations, give up their roving life, and in time interest themselves in the pursuit of civilized life, provide the Government will agree to feed them on full rations until they can take care of themselves.

NEW YORK.

The Fishery Question.

A special dispatch to the World, London 19th.—The Conference will meet before Christmas. France will be represented by Thiers and Lazard, the former charge d'affaires at Constantinople, who is in London.

The Queen's speech will recommend the appointment of a royal commission to examine into the fishery question, in order to settle it upon some terms acceptable to America.

FOREIGN NEWS.

France to be destroyed.—The coming Conference.—The Luxembourg Neutrality question.—Meeting of the English Parliament.

Dispatches from Versailles announce that Bismarck has issued an order directing the destruction of the national forts of France, in the districts surrounding Versailles and Paris. This order is regarded as timely, as it enables the Germans to procure fuel and assist in military operations.

Dispatches from Berlin state that the Prussian government has issued orders to arrest the rioters in the recent disturbances in that city, charged with a treasonable plot.

unconditional surrender of Paris, and the submission of the French people. Prince Henry, of Luxembourg, sent to Prussia an official disclaimer that Luxembourg's neutrality has been violated by his permission.

LONDON, 19th.—The Spanish Cortes, Moret opposed any new taxes or loans. He proposed to reduce expenses one-half, and economize otherwise fifty millions.

The Poa understands that Parliament meets February 11th, when the army and navy estimates will be instantly submitted.

SPAIN.

MADRID, 17th.—In the Cortes, Sagasta said Grant's language about Cuba was unimportant, as Spain is ready to accept a mixed commission.

MADRID, 19th.—Moret submitted the budget on Saturday. There was a deficit of \$23,000,000 of reals. The government can meet the interest on the external debt. It is proposed to loan 90,000,000 internal at twelve per cent., redeemable every eighteen months.

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