

BREVITIES.

It is estimated that there are three thousand men employed in quarrying white marble in Vermont.

A paper recently read before an Eastern society claims that conflagrations have increased sixty per cent. since the use of petroleum.

The barbarous old-fashioned uniform of the British army, it has just been discovered, has induced fatal heart disease in thousands of soldiers.

The London trades' unions sent money to aid the Paris dry goods clerks in their recent strike, and some assistance was also forwarded from Berlin.

A society is being formed in London, under the following title: "Society for the Protection of the Subject Against the Violence of the Police."

Every worthy poor family in Syracuse is to be furnished with a warm meal daily during the coming winter, by charitable citizens.

Peter Cartwright says the D. D. tacked on to his name never increased his height one inch, or made him forget that he was a man.

On a tombstone in a churchyard in Ulster is the following epitaph: "Erected to the memory of John Phillips accidentally shot as a mark of affection by his brothers."

A Beaver county (Pa.) elder, long ago, who was asked by the congregation to pray for rain, began his supplication to the Almighty with, "We would not presume to dictate, but would merely suggest."

Infant prodigies abound in the theatrical companies of England, and a writer in the *Orchestra* thinks there ought to be something like a "Factory act" for their protection, as they are all mentally and physically overworked.

The Wabash (Wis.) *Herald*, speaking of the qualifications of a candidate for the office of Coroner, says: "He will sit on a corpse with more real ability and grace than any other man of our acquaintance."

A traveling life insurance agent applied to a Texan to "take out a policy," but the fellow replied: "A fellow's life is so confounded uncertain in this community, it isn't worth insuring."

"Who's that gentleman my little man?" was asked of an urchin. "That one with the spiked-tailed coat?" "Yes," was the response. "Why, he's a bryet uncle of mine." How's that?" was asked. "Cause he's engaged to my aunt Mary."

"There is two ways of doing it," said Pat to himself, as he stood musing and waiting for a job on State street corner. "If I save me \$4,000, I must lay up \$200 a year for twenty years, or I can put away \$20 a year for two hundred years. Now which way will I do it?"

Accounts are given in some of the foreign journals of the healing properties of a new oil. It is easily made from the yolks of eggs, and is said to be much employed by the German colonists of South Russia as a means of curing cuts, bruises, scratches, etc. The eggs are boiled hard, the yolks removed and crushed and then placed over a fire and stirred carefully until the whole substance is on the point of catching fire, when the oil separates and may be poured off. Hen's eggs are considered the best, and nearly two teaspoonful of oil may be gained from a single yolk.

A skin of an animal, whether cow, calf, colt, or horse, that dies on a farm, is worth more at home than at the tannery. Cut them into narrow strips and shave off the hair with a sharp knife before the kitchen fire, or in your workshop, stormy days and evenings. You may make them soft by rubbing. A raw hide halter strap, an inch wide, will hold a horse stronger, and last longer than an inch rope. It is stronger than hoop iron, and more durable, and may be used to hoop dry casks and boxes and for hinges. Try it upon a broken wheel, or any wood that is splintered. Put it on wet and nail it fast. Thin skins make the best bags in the world.—*Ex.*

An Irishman, who had just landed, went to see his sister, who was married to a Yankee, and when Pat came the gentleman took him over his place to show it to him. Pat, at the evidences of prosperity, said to his brother-in-law: "Begorra, you are very happy here with this fine property to live on. Me sister had good luck intirely, so she had, in gittin' you for a husband." "Ah, yes," responded the married man; "we would be very happy but for one thing." "And what's that?" asked Pat. "Ah, Pat," returned the gentleman, "I am sorry to say that we have no children." "No children!" exclaimed Pat; "then, begorra, it's not me sister Maggie's fault, for she had two before she left Ireland, and that's the reason me father sint her to America!"

There is a tall bird known to naturalists by the name of the Secretary Bird. Its classical name is the *Gypogerys*, or vulture-crane. It is, in fact, about the size of a stork, to which it is nearly allied by nature and in its voracious propensities. In digestive power, it is hardly inferior to the ostrich. The proper food of the Secretary Bird is reptiles, especially serpents; but, when domesticated, every kind of nourishment agrees with it; and if it be permitted to suffer from hunger, it will fall upon ducks, chickens, geese, and fish. Its gait and figure are elegant and imposing. It walks like a king's secretary. Its eye has a quick, dashing, prepossessing glance. A beautiful tuft of feathers, which it can erect at pleasure, inclines backward from the head, exactly resembling a fine feathery goose-quill stuck behind the ear of a secretary. Hence its name. In hot climates, where reptiles abound, this bird is carefully preserved. It is fabled to kill one, but the public appreciates its uses too well to destroy it wantonly.

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