

Miscellaneous.

A COMMON SENSE JAPANESE.—The Japanese are beginning to grow tired of performing the happy dispatch with a sabre sent them by the Emperor, and find it extremely disagreeable, even if the weapon be a marvel of splendor and art. Recently the Emperor had reason to be highly dissatisfied with one of his officers, and sent him the renowned sabre. It is a sort of honorary sword, very beautifully carved and finished. As this officer held high rank, and had hitherto given his prince every reason to be satisfied, the latter sent him, in order to alleviate the effect of the message as far as possible, one of his own swords, set with diamonds, and selected his Prime Minister as the bearer. The officer received the present, and was well aware what it signified. After reverently regarding the instrument of his punishment, he quietly left his house, went to the port, got aboard a French ship bound for Havre, and safely reached Paris, where he sold the sabre for 150,000 francs.

HEAVY THUNDERSTORMS.—Reports have come from Liverpool, Preston, and Malton, of fearful thunderstorms having visited those places. At Liverpool, on Sunday, at about five p. m., there was a heavy storm of lightning, thunder, and rain. It lasted only a short time, but its violence and the noise and force of the explosion at Hay-lake, near Liverpool were such as no one there recollects ever occurring before. There was a fearful flash; the explosion and flash were simultaneous, and it would appear, took effect in the yard of the Royal Hotel. The electricity entered either the roof or the window of a low stable and killed a valuable horse, the property of one of the visitors, split a large rug which hung against the wall, and set fire to it and the hay and straw around it. There were six or seven men sitting in an open shed opposite the stable, and they, perceiving smoke issuing from the stable, applied water and extinguished the flames. These men had a most providential escape, as the explosion must have occurred within ten feet of where they were grouped together. Monday afternoon, another, but milder storm, visited the locality.

The storm arose at Preston on Monday afternoon. At about three o'clock the sky grew dark, fearful flashes of lightning and loud peals of thunder followed. About a quarter past three o'clock rain literally fell in torrents, nearly every street in the town was flooded, houses, cellars, &c., were inundated, and in some localities shopkeepers had quantities of goods destroyed. In the principal square of the town several houses were flooded, and pumping engines had to be got to clear the water from them. Immediately after the rain there was an unparalleled fall of hail. Hail-stones half an inch long were picked up. The railway station was nearly "drowned out," for some time while the rain was falling the rails were completely out of sight, the water reached up to the fire-boxes of the engines, and ran through the station in a perfect torrent. It seems that the lightning struck several buildings in the town. In Bushell place a house was set on fire, and the water engines had to be sent for to extinguish the flames. The roof of a cotton-factory on the eastern side of the town was smashed, and some of the debris fell upon the machinery below. In some of the mills the operatives were so alarmed that they dared not work. The refreshment-room at the Deepdale-road Railway Station was struck by the lightning, but was not much damaged. A grocer's shop adjoining was also hit. The coach-building establishment of Mr. Dallis, in Lancaster-road, was slightly damaged by the lightning. At one of the villages near Preston a man was killed by the lightning, and at another a cow was struck dead in a field. The greatest amount of damage sustained in Preston appears to have been caused by the extraordinary heavy rain and hail which fell on Monday. One tradesman in Friargate had 1000 worth of goods, stored in his cellar, destroyed by the water which overflowed from the street. Another shopkeeper had 500 worth of goods destroyed in a similar way. In the houses of one of the streets of the town the furniture was floating about. Some of the dwellings were positively deluged, and the inmates had to escape as fast as possible.

TRIUMPH OF YANKEE GENIUS.—At a recent trial of breech-loading guns at St. Petersburg, Russia, in presence of a deputation of high officials, after the rejection of the English made guns of

Clay, Whitworth and Armstrong patterns, and a trial between Prussia and Berlin guns, and one invented by an American named Broadwell, the latter was adopted as preferable and more perfect than any of the others. The London Mechanics' Magazine urges the English Government to alter the Armstrong gun to Broadwell's pattern.

SINGULAR DEATH OF A HORSE FROM FRIGHT.—An almost unprecedented death of a horse from fright took place near Bingham, Notts, England, recently. Edmunds' menagerie left that town at an early hour, en route to Newark, where the annual "May Fair" is about to be held. One of the caravans is drawn by a camel. This was met by a cart which was coming in the opposite direction, drawn by a horse belonging to Mr. Smith, a farmer, of Flintham. The horse caught a sudden view of the strange beast of burden, gave a sort of snorting scream, plunged violently, and dropped down dead.

THE FIRST CALIFORNIA BUILT LOCOMOTIVE.—H. J. Booth & Co., of the Union Iron Works, in this city, are about finishing the first locomotive ever built on the Pacific coast. It is of large size, weighing 29 tons, and in style and finish will compare favorably with the best work of the kind done in the East. The locomotive is destined for the San Jose Railroad, and is named the "California." There are also two other locomotives in process of construction at the same establishment, one for the San Jose and the other for the Sacramento Valley road. The prospects are that in the building of locomotives, as in many other branches of industry, California will soon be independent of Eastern workshops.—[S. F. Bulletin.

THE PERILS OF THE STREETS OF LONDON.—The London Telegraph publishes an article on the danger of traveling in the streets of London, from which we find that the number of persons killed in the thoroughfares of that city is about 252 annually. On the railways the average is twenty. Comparing the 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 of passengers conveyed by the railways some 70,000,000 of miles yearly with the casualties which occur in the streets, the result is that the chances of death to the London pedestrian are as 100 to 1 compared with the railway traveler.

THE RUSSIAN PLAGUE COMING.—The Washington Republican says that official information has been received at the State Department, from our Minister at St. Petersburg, that the "Russian Plague" is spreading fearfully and is moving westwardly. He urges that proper sanitary measures be taken throughout the United States to prevent its introduction here. Acting upon Minister Clay's suggestion, the State Department has issued circulars to the principal municipal authorities throughout the country, suggesting that every possible preventive be used against the approaching evil.—[N. Y. Tribune, July 4.

RETURNED SOLDIERS IN PHILADELPHIA.—The Philadelphia Ledger says:

It is astonishing to find how quickly the returned soldiers resume their places as citizens. The blue, so prevalent a week ago, is disappearing, and the only indication of the presence of our soldiers is in the bronzed faces and erect walk of those who have assisted to save the republic. Those who predicted disorder and confusion upon the return of the soldiers must be agreeably disappointed. Four years of such discipline as is found in the army has not unfitted the men for the resumption of their duties as good citizens. After the first few days of jollification and interchange of friendly courtesies with old associates and companions, the soldiers find their way into the factories and workshops which they left months before in obedience to the call for volunteers. Everywhere the best of order has prevailed. The only fault has been in the too great confidence reposed by the returned soldiers in the friendship of every one who greets them. This is shown by the numerous cases of robberies. Instead of citizens being the victims to the dishonesty and rapacity of soldiers, the soldiers themselves are in many cases the victims of sharpers of the worst character. The return of the soldiers has made business especially brisk with the clothes dealers. All the boys are anxious to drop the uniform and don the citizen's dress. Livery stable-keepers have also been remembered in the disbursement of the money; but for the past three weeks the police reports have been singularly bare of all mention of the arrest of soldiers. They

have shown the world that they can fight well—now they return to prove that they can be good citizens.

HOW TO CURE LEANNESS—GENERAL RULE.—Eat a quantity of fresh bread—the same day's baking—and do not throw away the crumbs. Before 8 a. m., when in bed, take a basin of soup (*potage au pain* or *aux pates*), not too much, or, if you prefer it, a cup of chocolate. Breakfast at 11. Fresh eggs, boiled or poached, *petite pates*, cutlets, or anything else; but eggs are essential. A cup of coffee will not hurt. After breakfast take a little exercise. Go shopping or call on a friend, sit and chat, or walk home again. At dinner, eat as much soup, meat, and fish as you like, but do not omit to eat the rice with the fowl, macaroni, sweet pastry, creams, etc. At dessert, savoury biscuits, *babas*, and other farinaceous preparations which contain eggs and sugar. This diet may seem limited, but it is capable of great variation, and comprises the whole animal kingdom. Drink beer by preference; otherwise Bordeaux, or wine from the South of France. Avoid acids; except salad, which gladdens the heart. Eat sugar with your fruit, if it admits of it. Do not take a bath too cold; breathe the fresh air of the country as often as you can; eat plenty of grapes when in season; do not fatigue yourself by dancing at a ball. Go to bed at 11 o'clock; on extra nights be in bed by 1. If this system is boldly and exactly adhered to health and beauty will be the result. We fatten sheep, calves, oxen, poultry, carp, craw-fish, oysters; whence I deduce the general maxim: "Everything that eats can be fattened, provided the food be well and suitably chosen.—[Brelat Savarin.

Varieties.

—The canal at Dutch Gap, cut by order of Gen. Butler, allows passage for vessels drawing seven feet of water, and is now regularly used by such steamboats and other craft as do not draw over that depth.

—A lecturer addressing a Hampshire audience, contended with tiresome prolixity that Art could not improve Nature, until one of his hearers, losing all patience, set the room in a roar by exclaiming: "How would you look without your wig?"

—A bashful youth was lamenting to his paternal progenitor the ordeal of popping the question.

"Pooh," said the parent, "how do you suppose I managed?"

"Oh, you married mother, and I've got to marry a strange gal!"

—God-fishing banks have been found off Cape Flattery, on the Northern coast. The discoverer is a Mr. Wallace, formerly on the Hudson Bay Company's Wharf, Victoria. The fish are of the species known as red cod, weigh from five to fifteen pounds each, and are considered superior to the Eastern cod. They may be caught the year round. The banks are only 25 fathoms beneath the surface of the sea, and only 15 miles from Cape Flattery, in a direction nearly due west.—[Territorial Enterprise.

—A Western paper chronicles as follows the recent explosion of a steamboat on one of the great rivers: "The captain swam ashore. So did the chambermaid; she was insured for \$15,000, and loaded with iron."

—The wife of the Russian General of Artillery, residing at Kief, Russia, was recently burnt to death, from the accidental setting on fire of her clothing, by the ashes of a cigarette she was smoking.

—Gen Grant's pay is \$1,062 70 per month and rations.

—Another terrible conflagration is announced from Russia. On the 21st of May a house in the town of Kozlow, in the government of Tamlow, took fire during a high wind, and the flames spread with such fury that twenty-four hundred houses were destroyed.

—There is a man in prison for debt in London, who has been so for 22 years.

—In some portions of the South there are towns which have no existence, save in name—not a house being left standing.

—The London Daily News says that in consequence of the cholera having broken out in Egypt, the whole of the India, China and Australian mail was recently sent from the General Post Office in boxes instead of bags, to prevent infection from being carried out of Egypt by the mail passing through that country.

Bits and Scraps.

..... In a railway accident, what is better than presence of mind? Absence of body.

..... What is the worst kind of fare for a man to live on? Warfare.

..... To the well-bred doctor, all babies are angels.

..... "Honesty is the best policy," said a Scotchman. "I know it my friend, for I have tried bath."

..... A man may have the "constitution of a horse," but that's no reason why a doctor should treat him like an ass.

..... Mrs. Dawdle says that one of her boys don't know nothing and the other does. The question is, Which is a-head?

..... Fred, a boy of three or four years, on being asked how he liked his ice-cream, replied, "Very well, though I'd like it better fried."

..... "I'm sitting on the style, Mary," is what the envious girl said when she plumped down on her sister's new gipsy hat and feather.

..... Man is a wonderful creature to sup. He can sup-ply, sup-plant, sup-plicate, sup-pose, sup-press, sup-port, sup-soup, and sup-on.

..... The famous Sir Boyle Roche once remarked, "Single misfortunes never come alone, and the greatest of all possible misfortunes is generally followed by a much greater."

..... An Athenian, who was lame on one foot, joining the army, was laughed at by the soldiery on account of his lameness. "I am here to fight," said he, "not to run."

..... The following question is now before the Tillietudlem Debating Society: "Is it wrong to cheat a lawyer?" It is expected that the answer will be, "No! but impossible."

..... "The British empire, sir," exclaimed an orator, "is one on which the sun never sets." "And one," replied an auditor, "in which the tax-gatherer never goes to bed."

..... Mrs. Partington says, if she should ever be cast away, she would prefer meeting with the catastrophe in the "Bay of Biscuits," so that she should have something to live on.

..... Plunkett one day met a friend in the street, who said to him, "Well, you see, —'s prediction has come true." "Indeed!" replied Plunkett; "I always knew he was a bore, but I didn't know he was an augur."

..... "No one would take you for what you are," said an old-fashioned gentleman to a young would-be-dandy in Brighton, who had more hair than brains. "Why?" asked Joe, immediately. "Because they can't see your ears."

..... An advertisement in a Boston paper lately, for a young man to work in a store, was answered by eighteen applicants. But one for a "gentleman" to travel and play on the banjo, met with 409 responses.

..... A merchant, who died suddenly, left in his desk a letter written to one of his correspondents. His sagacious clerk, a son of Erin, seeing it necessary to send the letter, wrote at the bottom, "Since writing the above I have died."

..... In going on board a Mississippi steamboat the other day, Mr. Jones met Mr. Smith. "Which way are you going, Smith—up or down?" "That depends on circumstances," replied Smith. "If I sleep over the boiler, up; if in the cabin, down."

..... A little Swedish girl, while walking with her father on a starry night, absorbed in the contemplation of the skies, being asked of what she was thinking, replied: "I was thinking if the wrong side of heaven is glorious, what must the right side be!"

..... A distinguished California divine was asked, after a trip to silver land, "What he thought of the country?" He replied: "There are but three things at Washoe, sir—big mines, little mines, and whisky shops; in other words, Ophir holes, gopher holes, and loafer holes."

..... One night when Sir Richard Steele pressed Dr. Garth to stay and drink with him, the doctor consented: "for," said he, "I have but fourteen patients that I ought to see to-night, and of these five are so bad that no physician can cure them, and nine have such constitutions that I don't believe all the physicians in London could kill them."

..... A good story is told of a Northern merchant who was eating his dinner at the Battle House, at the time of the recent explosion in Mobile. Although badly cut by the flying fragments of the windows, he managed to rush to the telegraph office, and send a message to his partner "to ship nothing but putty and glass." This duty done, he fainted, and has been in a brain fever ever since.

..... The following is credited to the Western Christian Advocate:—In a negro class-meeting at Richmond, Sam Johnson was called on to pray, and before he had closed his prayer the leader called out: "Sam Johnson, you may take your seat and let Brudder Sugden pray; he is better acquainted wid de Lord dan you." Another was called to speak, and after speaking about five minutes was called to order, and told if he could not speak more to de pint dan dat, he might take his seat.

..... It must be a pleasant thing to be a newspaper editor in Austria. Apart from the peril of being continually pulled up for insulting the government, it appears that in the semi-barbarous districts the police assume the right of flogging them. The magistrate of Esseg recently issued an order prohibiting the inhabitants from buying their meat of a butcher across the Drave, who sold it a penny a pound cheaper than the town butcher. The editor of the local paper wrote a sharp comment upon the order, for which he was summoned before the town captain, who told him that if he ever dared to write against the magistrate again he would receive twelve lashes!

..... A tale is told of Black John, the last of the Cornish Jesters, that one day, after he had for some time amused the guests, and had drunk his full share of the ale, he fell, or seemed to fall asleep. On a sudden he started up with a loud and terrified cry. Questioned as to the cause of his alarm, he answered, "O, sir," to his master, "I was in a sog, (sleep) and I had such a dreadful dream. I thought I was dead, and I went where the wicked people go." "Ha, John," said Arcott, of Fetcott, in his grim voice, wide awake for a jest or a tale, "then tell us all about what you heard and saw." "Well, master, nothing particular." "Indeed, John!" "No, sir; things was going on just as they do upon earth—here in Fetcott Hall—the gentle-folks nearest the fire."