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EVENING NEWS.

Friday, June 9, 1876.

Very Large Families.

Under the title of "Many Arrows in the Quiver," a writer in *All the Year Round* has collected from *Notes and Queries*, and various other publications, an amazing list of cases answering to the question, "Are there any well-authenticated examples of a father or a mother having had two dozen children or more?" Beginning with the lowest number mentioned in the query, the writer cites six instances proving the affirmative of the question. Among the most curious of these is that of Col. John Turner, which is recovered from a volume of celebrated trials. While the suit was in progress in which this gentleman was involved, he gave in the following casual bit of testimony concerning his wife: "She sat down, being somewhat fat and weary, poor heart! I have had twenty-seven children by her, fifteen sons and twelve daughters." Another interesting example is that of a publican's wife at Chester, who was living twenty years ago, and had borne twenty-six children within sixteen years. There were a number of twins included in these births. A third case notable is that of a woman who, at the beginning of the present century, resided at New Road, and had been the mother of twenty-eight children, all of whom had been single births, and had lived several months, although not more than ten were surviving at any one time. Passing on to a still higher number, nine instances are recorded where thirty or more children were borne of the same parent. An old copy of the *Gentleman's Magazine* contains the obituary notice of Mrs. Agnes Melbourne, who died at the age of 108 and had borne thirty children. A woman in Essex is mentioned who had fifteen boys in succession, and then, to make the thing even, had fifteen girls in the same unbroken sequence. It is stated that when Charles V entered Ghent in state as to the Count of Flanders, one Oliver Minjan, whose wife had brought him twenty-one boys and ten girls, presented himself before the Emperor at the head of his corps of boys, all in uniform. Of course the marvelous spectacle secured a pension for the prosperous father. But the final fate of this numerous family was most tragical. The whole thirty-one children were destroyed by the Black Death which prevailed in 1856, and the bereft parents followed their offspring to the grave soon after. Ghent erected a memorial to this extraordinary family, which is still in preservation. Toward the close of the last century a remarkable sight was witnessed at Kiston-le-Moor, in Cumberland, viz.: a procession consisting of a man and wife and thirty children marching to church to attend the baptism of the last and thirty-first youngster added to the family group. It is related that when the Emperor Henry II was once traveling through Germany the Count of Abendsburg gave over to his sovereign his thirty two children as the most precious jewels he could offer to the Crown. In a number of the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the year 1756 there occurs this terse notice under the head of births: "A woman in Vere street, of the thirty-fifth child by one husband." Advancing to yet a higher figure, our authority gives four examples of upwards of thirty-five children of one and the same mother. Early in the sixteenth century Thomas and Helen Urquhart, of Cromarty Castle, were the proud parents of twenty-five sons, who grew up to manhood, and of eleven daughters, who lived to be married, and many of them the mothers of large families. Towards the close of the seventeenth century, Thomas Greenhill, a surgeon and author of a treatise on the art of embalming, addressed a petition to the Duke of Norfolk, then Earl Marshal of England, in which he prayed: "That, in consideration of your petitioner being the seventh son and thirty-ninth child of one father and mother, your Grace would be pleased to signalize by some particular motto or augmentation in his coat of armor, to transmit to posterity so uncommon a thing." The application was granted—the addition to the Greenhill coat-of-arms being a "demi-griffin, powdered with thirty-nine mullets." One of the most remarkable instances of fertility is afforded by the Bathurst family. The youngest brother of the late Lord Bathurst had twenty-two children by his first wife and fourteen by his second; while two brothers and a sister of his had, during their married lives, sixty-four children, making in all just one hundred as the progeny of the four couples. Proceeding to the incredible number of forty children, there are five cases cited. Pennant transcribes, in his tour of Wales, the following epitaph: "Here lyeth the body of Nicholas Hocker, of Conway, gent., who was the forty-first child of his father, William Hecker, by Alice, his wife, and the father of twenty-seven children. 1637." An inscription on a tombstone in Heydon church-yard, Yorkshire, states that William Stratton was buried in 1734 at the age of 97, and that he had had forty-five children—twenty-eight by his first wife and seventeen by her successor. It is said that a Florentine noble, the Marchese Fescobaldi, possesses the portrait of an ancestress, Dionora Salviato, on which is inscribed the declaration that the lady "had had fifty-two children—never less than three at a birth, and on one occasion six at a birth." A still more marvelous story is taken from the Collectanea Topographica, in the Harleian collection, where it is recorded that a Scotch weaver had by one wife sixty-two children, all of whom lived to be baptized, and forty-six of whom grew to manhood and four to womanhood. But we have borrowed as many cases from the wondrous store of our informant as the average reader will care to go over. The original writer does not vouch for the authenticity of all of them, but simply repeats them as they were given to him; therefore, these which most task the credulity may well be taken with a grain of allowance. Nevertheless, there are in the list we have quoted a sufficient number of unquestionable examples of remarkable fecundity to create "our special wonder." As a fitting climax to the series of astonishing stories, we copy verbatim the closing paragraph of the article from which the whole have been extracted: "Horace Walpole speaks of an ancient lady whom he visited, one Mrs. Godfrey; she had a daughter, who had a daughter (Lady Waldegrave), who had a son (Lord Waldegrave), who had a daughter (Lady Harriet Beard), who had a daughter (Countess Dowager of Powis), who had a daughter (Lady Clime), who had an infant son! Horace Walpole saw all the eight generations at different periods of his life. The secret here was—early marriages, one after another."—*Ex.*

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S. J. LYNN, Supt.

J143

CITY ORDINANCES!

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A FEW EXTRA COPIES

Have been issued, for sale, to City Officers and the Legal Fraternity throughout the Territory, and can be purchased at the Office of the

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PRICES.—Best Calf, $2 50; Calf, $2 25; Cloth, $1 75.

ROBERT CAMPBELL,
City Recorder.

d238 1m

Rocky Mountain Pills

A VALUABLE MEDICINE,

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FIFTEEN years of earnest botanical research among these mountains and valleys have resulted in the discovery, not only of many new varieties of plants, but of new species, some of which have wonderful medicinal curative properties. By continued experiment their virtues have become known, and thus from extracts of these newly-discovered plants are these pills compounded.

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On orders accompanied by the cash or postal order, I will send safely by mail, postpaid, 1 box Pills for 25 cents; 1 dozen boxes, $2.50; 1 gross boxes, $20.00.

J. E. JOHNSON,
St. George, Utah.

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Clean Cotton Rags and Gunny Sacks TAKEN ON SUBSCRIPTION AT THE DESERET NEWS OFFICE.

None but Clean Cotton Rags Taken. People from the City will please bring them on Wednesday and Thursday.

DAVID O. CALDER.

(OFFICIAL.)

Arrivals and Departures of Mails.

ARRIVALS.

East—Through mail, daily..... 7 40 p m
Local—Ogden, Echo City, Wasatch and Morgan County, daily..... 7 40 p m
Summit and Wasatch counties, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 40 p m
Alta, Tuesday, Faurday and Saturday..... 7 10 p m
West—Through mail, daily..... 10 10 a m
Local—West Jordan and Herriman, Thursday..... 7 10 a m
Ophir, Tooele City, daily, except Sunday..... 8 00 p m
Grantsville, Saturday..... 8 00 p m
Bingham, daily, except Sunday..... 7 10 p m
North—Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington Ter. daily..... 10 10 a m
Local—Davis and Box Elder counties, daily..... 10 10 a m
Cache county, Thursday and Saturday..... 10 10 a m
Rich county, Monday and Thursday..... 7 40 p m
South—To Picche, daily..... 7 10 p m
St. George and Arizona, alternate days..... 7 10 p m
Sanpete and other counties, 7 10 p m
Fairfield and Cedar Valley, alternate days..... 7 10 p m

CLOSING.

East—Through mail, daily..... 9 00 a m
Local—Ogden, Morgan county, Echo City and Wasatch, daily..... 9 00 a m
Summit and Wasatch counties, Monday and Wednesday, 9 00 a m
Alta, Monday, Wednesday and Friday..... 5 30 p m
East—California, Nevada and Ogden, (through mail) daily..... 1 30 p m
Local—West Jordan and Herriman, Thursday..... 5 30 p m
Ophir, Tooele, Stockton and Grantsville, daily, except Sunday..... 4 30 p m
Bingham, daily, except Sunday..... 5 30 p m
North—Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon, daily..... 1 30 p m
Local—Davis and Weber counties, daily..... 4 00 p m
Box Elder county, daily..... 1 30 p m
Cache county, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday..... 1 30 p m
Rich county, Wednesday and Saturday..... 9 00 p m
South—Picche, etc., daily..... 8 30 a m
St. George and Arizona, alternate days..... 8 30 a m
Sanpete county, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday..... 5 30 p m
Fairfield and Cedar Valley, Wednesday..... 8 30 a m

Geneva Railroad open from 8 a m to 6 p m, Sunday, 8 30 to 1 30 p m.
Money Order and Delivery Department from 9 a m to 5 p m.
Outside door open from 8 a m to 8 p m.