

BREVITIES.

The latest joke in New Haven is for fashionable females to anchor their poodles to small red balloons on which their names are printed.

A Sunday-school teacher was giving a lesson on Ruth. She wanted to bring out the kindness of Boaz in commanding the reapers to drop larger handfuls of wheat. "Now, children," she said, "Boaz did another very nice thing for Ruth; can you tell me what it was?" "Married her!" said one of the boys.

The following is the area of the United States since the addition of Alaska: Area of the States, 1,902,436 square miles; area of the Territories, 1,041,963 square miles; Alaska, 577,390 square miles; total area, 3,611,852 square miles.

Rev. Moses Clapp, an eccentric preacher, was holding forth at Santa Clara valley; a young man rose to go out, when the preacher said: "Young man, if you'd rather go to hell than hear me preach, you may." The sinner stopped and reflected a moment, and then saying respectfully, "Well, I believe I would," went out.

The *Call* aptly says that there have been two eras of emigration to California—one the "golden era," and the other "the agricultural era." The former extended from 1849 to 1853. It gave wealth to other lands, but left our own poor. The latter era is now in progress, and instead of waste and ruin, will strengthen and elevate our people.

The little Princess Felicia, said to be the smallest girl of her age on the continent, is still the great sensation in Paris. She is only fifty centimeters high. On her arrival in Paris she was immediately taken to the Empress, who put her into her work-basket and carried her to the Emperor's room. The girl was placed on Napoleon's writing-table, on which she promenaded and danced for a while, and closed the performance, to the great amusement of the Emperor, by turning a somersault. She is only seven years old, and the physicians who have examined her predict that she will yet grow about eight or ten centimeters, when she will be about two feet high.

All the stories told of the Siamese Twins hardly equal this of the famous Scotch double man, of whom the following curious account is given in the "Rerum Scoticarum Alstoria."—"During the reign of James the Third of Scotland, and at his court, there lived a man double above the waist, single below that region. The King caused him to be carefully brought up. He rapidly acquired a knowledge of music. The two heads learned several languages; they debated occasionally, and the two upper halves occasionally fought. They lived generally, however, in the greatest harmony. When the lower part of the body was tickled, the two individuals felt it together; but when, on the other hand, one of the upper individuals was touched, he alone felt the effect. This monstrous being died at the age of twenty-eight years. One of the bodies died several days before the other."

Not content with chloroform (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*), science has produced a knife which cuts so rapidly that the person operated upon feels no pain. The method was fully explained the other day to the British Medical Association by Dr. Richardson, the inventor, who also has written to the *Times* contradicting a statement which appeared in the paper to the effect that a rabbit was eating its dinner in front while it was being cut into ribbons in the rear by the instrument in question. Dr. Richardson tells us this is not the case, no animal whatever was allowed the privilege of being subjected to experiment, but "was anxious to make an experiment, by way of illustration, on his own body. Unfortunately, he was prevented at the last moment, by an accidental breakage of the instrument, from carrying out the demonstration."

Here are some "good hints" to people who seem to think a Postmaster the fit subject of their attention.

When you call at the post office for your mail, and the Postmaster hands it out to you, ask him if it is all.

If you ask for mail and he tells you there is none, tell him there ought to be; then go home and send the rest of the family around to ask through the day.

Don't bring your mail to the office until the mail closes, then damn the Postmaster for not unlocking the mail bag and putting it in.

When you want a stamp on your letter, tell the Postmaster to put it on; if he don't lick it, you lick him. In case you put the stamp on yourself, soak it in your mouth long enough to remove the mucilage—it will then stick until it is dry.

Be sure to ask the Postmaster to credit you for stamps; if he has any accommodation about him at all, he will do it. If you have a box stand and drum on it until the Postmaster hands out your mail, it makes him feel good; especially if he is waiting on some one else.—*Ex.*

It is a curious coincidence that we have not seen noticed yet in connection with the centennial celebrations taking place in 1899, that the year which ushered into life Napoleon and Humboldt, was the birth year also of a host of warriors, philosophers and statesmen; only a little less eminent. In the year 1799 there were born, besides Napoleon and Humboldt the great naturalist Cuvier; the Duke of Wellington; four of Napoleon's ablest Marshals—Soult, Ney, Lannes, and Bessieres; Chateaubriand, the poet; Brunel, the engineer; Sir Thomas Lawrence, the painter; Mohammed Ali, the famous Pacha of Egypt; Huskisson, the English statesman; and among Americans, the Witt Clinton, Caldwell and Dr. David Henshaw. The year 1899 is also the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood; the four hundredth of Machiavelli, and the thirteen hundredth of Mohammed. Is '99 a magical number?

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