

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

Vol. II.

SALT LAKE CITY, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 1, 1869

No. 265

BREVITIES.

An indignant orator, at a recent political meeting, in refuting an opponent, thundered out: "Mr. Chairman, I scorn the allegation, and I defy the alligator."

In connection with the reports concerning Napoleon's health, it is said that His Majesty had long been told that his moderate use of tobacco (at one time he smoked sixteen cigars a day) would superinduce paralysis, or softening of the spinal marrow; and, although he has for some years restricted himself to six cigars a day, his medical advisers think they can discover injurious effects from this number. He is now obliged to use catheters almost constantly.

A clever old dame, who resides a short distance from New York city, was recently astonished by her husband, who came in hurriedly with the remark: "I have got a present for you!" "A present for me," she said. "What is it?" "A tooth-brush," responded the old gent. "What good will that do me—you know that I have not got a tooth in my head!" replied the venerable joker. "There ain't a bristle in it!"

A Turkish tiler, being at work on the roof of a house, fell into the street upon a man, whom he killed, without any serious injury to himself. The son of the deceased caused him to be arrested and conducted to the Cad. The tiler, confessing the accident, stated that he would willingly afford the son an opportunity to retaliate on him. "Ascend the roof where I was," said he to the son; "I will place myself where your father was, then you may fall upon me and kill me if you can."

A successful business man, of New Albany, Indiana, was recently urged to take charge of a class in a Sunday School, and said: "No, indeed, sir; I will not teach a class." "Why not?" asked the superintendent. "For an excellent reason," he answered. "I once had a class of three boys in a Sunday school. After teaching them a short time, one of them was sent to jail, and another arraigned for a crime in the police court. To have the other from a similar fate, I gave up the class, and I will never teach another, for Sunday school teaching is evidently not my forte."

From Damascus came the damson, blue plums, and the delicious apricot of Portugal, called the damasco; damask, our beautiful fabric of cotton and silk, with vines and flowers raised upon a smooth, bright ground; the damask rose, introduced into England in the time of Henry VIII.; the Damascus blade, so famous for the weight of its keen edge and wonderful elasticity, the secret of whose manufacture was lost when Tamerlane carried off the artist into Persia; the beautiful art of inlaying wood and steel with silver and gold, a kind of mosaic engraving and sculpture united—called damasking—with which boxes, bureaus, swords and guns are ornamented.

A good strong cement, which may be used for a great number of purposes in the arts, may be made as follows: Take three parts of fine, clean sand, two parts of litharge, and three of plaster of Paris. Mix them well together in the form of a dry powder, and then makethem into a stiff paste, with good boiled oil. A heavy, sticky mass is thus produced, which has powerful adhesive properties, and in a very short time sets into a exceedingly hard mass. It is admirably adapted as a sort of hydraulic putty, as it will adhere to stone, glass, iron, wood, etc., and will stop all cracks and leaks. So too for repairing fractures in stone or iron, and for the restoration of pieces of sculpture, nothing can be better.—*Ex.*

W. I. Trafton, of Manchester, N. H., who has already made one miniature steam engine of great beauty and beauty, is about to construct another. He is to make every part of the engine, with the boiler, from a single half dollar. When done, it will be placed under a glass case three-fourths of an inch in diameter and an inch and one-eighth in height. The boiler will hold about eight drops of water, but half that quantity will run it several minutes. It will have all the parts of an engine, and the boiler will have two minute gauges. Some of the small parts can only be made by the aid of a powerful magnifying glass.

They who attempt to outwangle quarrelsome neighbors go the wrong way to work—a kind word, and still more, a kind deed, will be more likely to be successful. Two children wanted to pass by a savage dog; the one took a stick in his hand and pointed at him, but this only made the enraged creature more furious than before. The other child adopted a different plan; for by giving the dog a piece of bread and butter, he was allowed to pass, the subdued animal wagging his tail in gratitude. If you happen to have a quarrelsome neighbor, conquer him by civility and kindness; try the bread and butter system, and keep your stick out of sight. This is an excellent Christian admonition: "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger."—*Pro. xv. i.*

Mr. Emerson, in his lecture on "Works and Days," says many things worthy to be repeated a thousand times. Among the numerous striking passages that lodge in our memory is the following: "The days are God's best gifts to man, but like many other gifts pass by unheeded and unappreciated. We ask a friend, 'What are you doing now?' and are answered, 'I have been doing this and so, and am going to commence some other work soon, but just now I am not doing anything.' And yet we complain of having no time. An Indian Chief of the Six Nations once said a wiser thing than any philosopher. A white man remarked in his hearing that he had not time enough. 'Well,' replied Red Jacket, gruffly, 'I suppose you have all there is.' He is the wisest and best man who can, crowd the most good into now."—*Ex.*

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