

## BREVITIES.

North Germany has 11,746 beer-shops.

A Boston magazine writer has gone in to the grocery business, saying that the highest salary a good story writer can get is \$500 a year.

The clergy cost the United States \$12,000,000 per annum; the criminals, \$40,000,000; the lawyers, \$80,000,000. What an awful waste of money!

A little boy out West being asked if he knew where liars went, answered, "Yea, to New York, to write for the papers."

A Massachusetts town declined to prosecute an alleged poisoner because there were doubts as to the good moral character of the woman whom he attempted to poison.

A smart old Western lady, being called into court as witness, grew impatient at the questions put to her, and told the judge that she would quit the stand, for he was "rally one of the most inquisitive old gentlemen she had ever seen."

"Rip Van Winkle," as played at Washington, shows "Schneider" chained to a sapling when Rip begins his nap. When he awakes, the tree is a mighty oak, and "Schneider's" skeleton is hanging from the branches.

Three brothers, bearing a remarkable resemblance to each other, recently went into the same barber shop, and on the same day, to be shaved; one going in the morning, the other at noon, and the third at night. When the last one appeared, the barber, who was a German, dropped his razor in astonishment, and exclaimed:

"Well, dat man hash de fastest beard I never saw; I shave him dis mornin', shaves him at dinner-time, and he comes back now mit his beard so long as it never wash."

Two farmers in Kansas recently had a law suit about seven pounds of butter. When the jury retired they took with them the butter, procured some crackers, ate them together, and returned a verdict of "no cause of action."

The New York Express says: Boston is determined not to be behind New York in any particular. She has a police officer who picked a lady's pocket of a watch while in the line of his duty as he assisted her to a seat in his duty Hall.

"Be solemn," said Mr. Cowin, "if you want to succeed. The world looks up to the ringmaster and down on the clown. It despises the man who entertains it. Be as solemn, therefore, as an ass. All the monuments have been built to solemn asses."

A Waterbury, Conn., youth, repentant, but incoherent, over his dissipation, signed the following pledge: "I solemnly promise to abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages, otherwise than as a drink, and profanity unless prescribed by a physician, at least four times a day, excepting cider."

A little reconstructed Southern girl, five years old, asked a colored servant, in the course of a theological examination, what the fifteenth commandment was. The reply that there were but ten commandments was scornfully received and the child gravely announced that the fifteenth commandment was that the colored people should vote.

The Queen of England keeps a little private school; that is by deputy. The pupils number one hundred and twenty, and are children of people employed about the "place." Thirty boys and thirty girls selected for good conduct, are provided with dinner every day. No good conduct, no good dinner.

The San Francisco Commercial Herald, entering the minutia, finds the aggregate expense of free lunch in that city to be a daily expenditure of \$17,200; monthly, \$516,000; yearly, \$1,548,000. To which add wages of cooks \$384,000 per year, of waiters \$300,000, making a grand total of \$1,922,400 per day; without estimating cost of fire, lights, wear and tear, etc. This will furnish an idea of liquors, wines and beer drank by a city of 170,000 inhabitants, and may furnish some clue to the large number of suicides and maniacs annually chronicled in our journals.

Sawdust wetted with sulphuric acid diluted with forty parts of water and distributed about horse-stables, will, it is said, remove the disagreeable ammoniacal smell, the sulphuric acid combining with ammonia to form a salt. Chloride of lime slowly evolves chlorine which will do the same thing, but then the chlorine smells worse than the ammonia. Sulphuric acid on the contrary is perfectly inodorous. The mixture should be kept in a shallow earthen vessel. The sulphuric acid used alone, either diluted or strong, would absorb more or less of the ammonia, but there would be danger of spilling it about, and causing serious damage; and besides this, the sawdust offers a large surface to the floating gas. The experiment is easily tried and it may prove successful.—Manufacturer Builder.

The Winter of 1740 is described in an old book quoted by a German paper as very terrible. This work, "Brookes' contentment in God," thus speaks of it: "An unheard of frost seized with extraordinary severity on the world and the elements, so that it is scarcely possible to number or relate the many strange occurrences that took place through its violence. Men felt so oppressed that days passed by unheeded. One would or could hardly speak; one sat and thought, yet could not think; if any one spoke a word it was with a hard set face. Many hens and ducks, even the cattle in the stalls, died of cold; the trees split asunder. Not only beer but wine in cellars froze. Deeply sunken wells were covered with impenetrable ice. Crows and other birds fell to the ground frozen in their flight. No bread was eatable, for it was as cold and hard as stone." Brookes further relates that this extraordinary winter was followed by an equally uncommon spring. In May no sign of verdure was yet to be seen; it was still cold in July, and vegetation was still further hindered by drought. The harvest was not over till late in the autumn, and by the middle of October the frost returned, before the fruit in the garden had time to ripen.

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