

BREVITIES.

The expenses of Girard College last year amounted to \$163,790.

One Buffalo dealer has sold 20,000 valentines this year.

Brasilians troops are served with rations of dog's meat.

Buffalo young folks indulge in masked sleighing parties.

For the first time since 1832, a vessel has sailed up the Housatonic River in January.

Oysters are regularly imported into England from New York.

Solitary confinement has crazed nine convicts in the Detroit prison.

The funded debt of Philadelphia is \$1,401,934, and Baltimore owes \$25,000,000.

A movement is being made in New York to repeal the law requiring compulsory employment of pilots and shipmasters.

Maine proposes to compel the attendance of children in its public schools, and abolish the district system.

A Pennsylvania clergyman has challenged his clerical brethren to preach for the "championship of Allegheny."

A Texas beef-condensing factory packed a whole bullock in a twelve pound can.

In Brunswick, Me., not long ago, a dentist had his office over the store of a man named Toothaker.

An extensive vein of excellent coal has been found near Salem, Oregon, on the line of the Oregon Central Railroad.

Our language only reaches its perfect richness in the West. If a girl has blue eyes it is related that "she wears blue orbits." If a man is named, they say "he don't scare worth a cent."

A Rome correspondent of the New York Tribune calculates that sixteen months will elapse before the Ecumenical Council will complete their labors and adjourn.

A fund of \$30,000 has been left by will for the establishment and maintenance of a free school for indigent white boys in Georgetown, D. C.

Officers of the Prussian army are to make the trip to sea in war vessels, in order to gain some knowledge of navigation and the maneuvering of fleets.

A stump orator exclaimed: "I know no north, no south, no east, no west, fellow citizens!" "Then," exclaimed an old farmer in the crowd, "it's time you went to school and learnt geography."

A California man, who was employed by a widow to sell a number of mules, received for them \$2,000, and then wasted the money in riotous living in San Francisco. The police were notified, and he, being arrested, promised to refund the money provided the widow would marry him.

Two children, aged seven and nine, of Rev. George Brint, of Springfield, Illinois, were recently killed by lightning, while the father was preaching in his church. Two other children, lying in the same bed, were not touched.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate of California proposing an amendment to the State Constitution which shall permit young men who distinguish themselves by their industry and morality to vote at the age of 18 years, and to hold certain local offices, if fortunate enough to be elected to them. A Board of Examiners is to decide whether the young men are worthy of this high honor.

A wonderful spectacle was observed in Germany, on the night of the 1st of January. At Meseritz, from midnight to one o'clock, the entire northern sky presented the appearance of a sea of fire, from which fell a constant and dense shower of many colored sparks. The immense sheet of burning flame finally took the form of a fiery sheaf, from which the brilliant rain continued to descend till the whole waxed gradually fainter and disappeared.

An irascible old gent, who formerly held the position of Justice of the Peace, was one day accosted in the street by a youth, in a manner that did not come up to his honor's idea of respect due him. "Young man," said he, "I fine you \$5 for contempt of court." "Why Judge," said the offender, "you are not in session." "This Court," replied the Judge, "thoroughly irritated, 'is always in session, and consequently always an object of contempt.'"

Coal oil, a dangerous but useful article, is found in almost every house, especially in a town like ours where there is no gas. An exchange suggests the following rules, which, if carefully observed, it is believed, will render the use of coal oil comparatively safe:

Fill your lamps by daylight and keep them well cleaned.

Never burn a lamp when it is less than one-half full of oil.

Never fill a lamp near the fire.

Turn the wick down low before trying to blow the light out.

Keep your oil can in a cool place.

Coal oil is explosive when heated.

Don't let little children meddle with either lamp or oil.

If you want to blow yourself up, just pour a little oil out of your can on your fire to start it.

Cincinnati is wildly excited over spiritual manifestations. At a very successful seance the other night, a man burst into tears when the medium described very accurately a tall, blue-eyed spirit standing by him, with light side-whiskers and his hair parted in the middle.

"Do you know him?" inquired a man at his side, in a sympathetic whisper.

"Know him? I guess I do," replied the unhappy man, wiping his eyes.

"He was engaged to my wife. If he had died he would have been her husband instead of me. Oh, George, George," he murmured in a voice checked with emotion, "why did you do this?"

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