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BREVITIES.

Men who dot the I's—Pugilists.

There are 600 papers in France and 3,000 in Europe.

There is a house at Portland, Me., which has been set on fire ten times in six months.

A tantalizing old fellow, in Nashville, has left six widows \$5,000 apiece, on condition that they shall never marry.

A Quaker in a stage-coach with a military officer, observed that his sword was very troublesome. "All my enemies are of the same opinion," replied the captain.

A fold of cotton wadding laid across the shoulder blades within the vest or dress, is a protection to the lungs in a long, cold ride. A newspaper is also good to keep out the wind.

"Look here, Pete," said a knowing dandy, "don't stand out on the railroad. Why, Joe?" "Kiss if I care, see that mouf of yours day link it am the depo, an run rite in."

What the old mountaineer says of the grizzly: "It is a fine thing to hunt the grizzly, but when he gets to hunting you, its different."

Sir Charles Mordaunt will, it is said, leave England at an early day for America, intending to spend a season in the enjoyment of the sports of our Western prairies.

George—"Kitty! Where are you?" Kitty—"Here I am, George?" George—"Don't say, 'Here you are,' say 'Here you am,' when you are speaking of yourself."

A young gentleman recently found himself in company with three young ladies, and generously divided an orange between them. "You will rob yourself," exclaimed one of the damsels. "Not at all," replied the innocent; "I have three or four more in my pocket!"

Philadelphia has a novel will case. It appears that a man and his wife each made a will in favor of the other at the same time, but by some blunder the man signed his wife's will, and the wife signed her husband's. Not until after the death of the husband was the mistake discovered.

In preaching a charity sermon the Rev. Sydney Smith frequently repeated the assertion that of all nations Englishmen were most distinguished for generosity and the love of their species. The collection happened to be inferior to the preacher's expectations, when he said that he had "evidently made a great mistake—that his expression should have been that they were distinguished for the love of their species."

Candidates for Government offices in England are examined upon various literary and scientific topics. Lately one of them, by a slip of the pen, wrote "Venice" in one of his papers. "Do you know, sir, that there is but one 'hen' in Venice?" asked the indignant examiner. "Then he must be very scarce there," was the reply.

A gentleman the other day visiting a school at Cleveland had a book put into his hand for the purpose of examining a class. The word "inheritance" occurring in the verse, the querist interrogated the youngsters as follows: "What is inheritance?" A. "Patrimony." "What is patrimony?" A. "Something left by a father." "What would you call it if left by a mother?" A. "Matrimony."

All the four physicians implicated in the case of the Welsh fasting girl (who was starved to death in order that the doctors might find out whether she could live without eating), have been summoned before a bench of Magistrates. The child's father has already been committed for trial, and the mother is also to be examined.

A gentleman was once catechizing a class of children belonging to his congregation, and coming to a little boy, who was something of a rogue, asked him what he knew.

"I know something," replied the urchin, with a significant look.

"Well, my son, what do you know?" replied the pastor.

"I know where there is a bird's nest," said the boy; "but I shan't tell you, for fear you will steal the eggs."

An English clergyman thus accosted a London street Arab, whom he found playing marbles on Sunday:

"Do you know what happens to little boys who play marbles on Sunday?"

"They must either win or lose," said the boy.

"No, my little man, that's not all; the devil comes and carries them away."

"Oh, but," says the boy, "the scripture says he is chained up."

"Yes; but his chains reach all over the world," said the clergyman.

Quick as lightning came the answer: "Why, if that's the case, the beggar might as well be loose."

Customer (to clerk in hardware store).—"Show me a small, low-priced shears."

Clerk (secretively).—"Perhaps you mean a pair of shears."

Customer (severely).—"I mean precisely what I said."

Clerk (defiantly, opening a specimen article).—"Are there not two blades here? And don't you make a pair?"

Customer (triumphantly).—"You have two legs; does that make you a pair of men?"

Correspondence.

WALES, SANPETER CO.,

April 4th, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother: For the information of your readers I write a few lines concerning this place. In the year 1859, about fifteen families commenced to form a settlement in this locality, having the name of "Coal Bed," under the Presidency of Elder John Rees. It is situated on the west side of Sanpeter valley, near the mountains containing coal. Dwelling houses and a school house were erected, lots fenced, crops raised and a post office established. On account of the late Indian difficulties the school house and other buildings were pulled down, the place was vacated and the inhabitants removed to Moroni and other places.

After nearly three years, through the counsel of President Orson Hyde, about fifteen families commenced to make a settlement near the old site, under the Presidency of Elder John Rees. The mountains streams were small at first, but have gradually increased from season to season, so that it is decided to allow sixty families to locate here within a year of this date. Already the names of thirty have been received.

The settlement is situated on a pleasant and healthy site and bids fair, ere long, to become a thriving and prosperous town. Fuel, consisting of coal and wood, and lime stone of a good quality, are abundant, and the range for stock is excellent, and notwithstanding the ravages of grasshoppers a good crop of wheat was raised last year.

Since their return the inhabitants have built an adobe school house, twenty by thirty feet, in which, during the last winter there was a good day school taught by Jonathan Midgley, also a Sunday School taught by Henry Rees. Last September, a Female Relief Society was organized. This winter a Farmers' and Farmers' club and library have been commenced, and the post office re-established, under the name of Wales. This is the present name of this settlement. The people are busy putting in their crops, and think to raise a crop, although grasshopper eggs are plentiful around our field. The health of the people is good. We have organized a co-operative store, which we expect will be in full blast in a few days.

Yours truly,

HENRY C. LAMB.

St. Thomas, Arizona,

March 19, '70.

Editor News:—We arrived at this place from St. George, on Wednesday evening last. I guess the journey at a hundred miles under the rule in Dixie, that the worse the road the shorter the distance. It is called but ninety miles. First day out fur coats, boots and gloves were necessary for any degree of comfort. However, the weather moderated. Forty miles over mountains and rocks, and then our route followed the Rio Virgen, which we crossed a great number of times. We saw but one place where it seemed practicable to take it out to water any considerable tract of unmitigated desert. The banks being quicksands mixing like sugar with the water, renders irrigation along its shores impracticable. At the Narrows above the Mosquito flat, one thousand men, united, might succeed in building a dam that would water a considerable tract, which would produce cotton, vines and wheat. The timber for building could be obtained at a distance of 70 miles across a sandy and rocky desert. This is the only spot that I have observed on the river at which I think the waters could be controlled with success. The water is exceedingly muddy, and mineral to the taste.

On the 17th President Young and party made a pleasure excursion to the mouth of the Rio Virgen. We were accompanied by Bishop Leithhead and a number of citizens of this place. The distance is about thirty miles. A good ferry boat had been built by the people of the Muddy, who went seventy miles for the timber to construct it, cut it out with a whipsaw, carried it to the mouth of the river and put it together. The boat is twenty-six feet long and ten feet wide, and although built under such difficulties, it is a good specimen of flat-boat architecture.

A feeling of disappointment came over the party, on their arrival at the Colorado, at the apparent smallness of the river. "Why, it ain't as big as Green river or one of its forks," was the expression; but when the melting snows on the Rocky, Wasatch and Wind River mountains shall have filled its banks, twenty feet above the present water mark, it will be no mean stream. An examination was made to see if a canal could be made from the Rio Virgen to water about 1,800 acres of bench land near its mouth, but it was pronounced to be impracticable, as it would have to pass through several miles of quicksands and over countless washes. The best way to water this tract is by wind mills placed along the Colorado, as it is not practicable to make a canal from that stream to water it, as there is not sufficient fall to raise it on the land.

Mr. Joseph Asay and family, consisting of wife and ten sons, are living on the ground and are irrigating a small tract, liable to be overflowed by high water. He is catching flood-wood and fish. A specimen of the latter called the camel back, which he furnished the camp, was pretty good.

Our enterprising friend, C. R. Savage, by most untiring exertions, obtained several magnificent views of this interesting locality, which is certainly as near a picture of desolation as a person can well imagine. One would have had some food for our horses, but Mr. Asay had some four oxen kept there for a month, which had eaten up all the food within a circuit of ten miles, and when we saw them, they looked very

hungry and stood waiting for grass to grow. A little rain fell yesterday, the first of the season; and if the oxen live long enough, they may find a little grass. The water of the Colorado is the best drinking water we have tasted since we left the "Basin." It appears to be a windy place, and the wind has blown away the sand from the benches, until it has left the small stones on the surface in sufficient numbers to keep the sand still. Many of these were beautiful, and were collected by ladies and amateur geologists of the party in considerable quantities. As soon, however, as our horses rolled on the ground, it disturbed the pebbles in their bed, and the wind commenced stirring up the sand. We visited the salt well yesterday morning, it being one of the principal attractions; and then started on our return journey to this place, crossing the Rio Virgen eight times.

It rained during the day, and we had not time to copy the numerous hieroglyphical characters engraved on the rocks.

The character of the country is volcanic and the mountains are in a state of decay, waves of sand moving with every wind.

Bishop Leithhead, tells us that from forty-seven families in St. Thomas, there have been forty children born, and but one death among them during the last year.

GEO. A. SMITH.

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Salt Lake City, Feb. 1870. d51-2w

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