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DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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BREVITIES.

A bachelor, according to the latest definition, is a man who has lost the opportunity of making a woman miserable.

In life a man should always endeavor to suit circumstances to himself, and failing this, resignedly accommodate himself to circumstances.

It is related that in a window, in a certain city, there is a parrot which screams itself, with crying, "Stop thief," so that most persons, who hear it, run.

Common nails heated red hot and dropped into cold water will clinch well answer the purpose of wrought nails. The sharp corner of a common Indian arrow-head, or flint, will cut glass effectually. Rusty nails may be drawn from wood without difficulty, by first giving them a blow hard enough to start them a little. A gun will not need cleaning for five years, if the muzzle is tightly corked, and a piece of rubber kept upon the tube under the hammer, when standing idle.

To raise watermelons without seeds, the following plan has been successfully adopted by a planter in Caddo Parish, Louisiana: After the vine is about two feet long, cover the vine at a point intermediate between the top and the root. After it has taken root where it is covered, divide the vine between the old and new root, and the result will be that the melons will be seedless, without impairing their quality.

A gay young spark, of a deistical turn, traveling in a stage coach, forced his sentiments upon the company, by attempting to ridicule the Scriptures, and among other topics, made himself merry with the story of David and Goliath; strongly urging the impossibility of a youth like David being able to throw a stone with sufficient force to sink into a giant's forehead. On this he appealed to the company, and in particular to a grave gentleman of the denomination called Quakers, who sat silent in one corner of the carriage. "Indeed, friend," replied he, "I do not think it at all improbable, if the Philistine's head was as soft as thine."

In a recent number of Once a Week, there appeared a riddle which was said to be insolvable:

When from the ark's capacious round
The world came forth in pairs,
Who was it that first heard the sound
Of boots upon the stairs?

It was said that Archbishop Whately offered £5 to any one who would solve it, that a German professor wrote a most elaborate answer to it, and that, finally, it was supposed to be unanswerable. The answer is this:

"To him who cons the matter o'er,
A little thought reveals,
He heard it first who went before
Two pairs of soles and eels."

I suppose there can be nothing more galling than a voyage at sea. It is a marvelous mortifier of pride. The most pompous Don Sancho is not likely to stand upon his dignity when he can hardly stand upon his feet. I believe there are those who are so abnormally constituted as to feel a defiant pleasure in the wayward element, but I do not aspire to such lofty philosophy. I am content, as a rule, to admire the grandeur of the waves from the shore, and am not insensible to the force of that particular part of the "rest which remaineth" which is assured by the promise that "there shall be no more sea."

Still, there is something grand, even in awfulness, in the thought of utter helplessnes which you feel at sea. Sky and water, with no living thing visible over the vast expanse; for days together just your own vessel with its human freight—and God! To a thoughtful mind there is no surer teaching both of humility and of trust.—*Punshon.*

Silver, it is said, has for many ages been withdrawn from circulation by the natives of the East Indies, who use that metal alone for ornaments of the person. The population of the country is nearly 100,000,000, and each individual, it is reported, wears four or five silver rings, bracelets or charms. The custom is not confined to the females, and the males are as profusely decorated as the women. Extravagant as the calculation may appear, it is stated that there are at least one thousand million ornaments worn by the natives, and no approximate estimate can be made of the money value of the decorations.

At Richmond, Virginia, a modest young country girl, on applying for rations to one of the relief agents, was asked if she had ever taken the oath.

"No, indeed, sir," was the terrified reply, "I never swore in all my life."

"But you must take the oath, my good girl," said the agent, "or I cannot give you the rations."

"No, indeed, I can't sir," said the girl, "mother always told me never to swear."

The agent mildly persisted, and the maiden as pertinaciously refused all attempts at persuasion, until, overcome at last by the dreadful conflict between necessity and her high sense of moral duty, she stammered out, with downcast lids—

"Well, sir, if you will make me do such a horrid, wicked thing, then d—n the Yankees!"

Burns was standing one day upon the quay at Greenock, when a wealthy merchant, belonging to the town, had the misfortune to fall into the harbor. He was no swimmer, and his death would have been inevitable had not a sailor, who happened to be passing at the time, immediately plunged in, and, at the risk of his own life, rescued him from his dangerous situation. The Greenock merchant, upon recovering a little from his fright, put his hand into his pocket and generously presented the sailor with a shilling. The crowd who were by this time collected, loudly protested against the contemptible insignificance of the sum; but Burns with a smile of ineffable scorn, entreated them to restrain their clamor. "For," said he, "the gentleman is of course the best judge of the value of his own life."

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d139:tf

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d223:tf

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d193-3m

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d128:1y

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