

BREVITIES.

Canada has fifty-seven snow-shoe clubs.

Years do not make sages: they only make old men.

John Chinaman has earned \$68,000,000 in California since 1855.

A single firm in Paris, it is said, has sold two hundred thousand photographs of the murderer Traupman.

A Gettysburg professor has discovered some very minute diamonds in a specimen of Oregon platinum.

Mary Clemmer Ames gets better pay from Bowen's new paper than any other correspondent in Washington.

Lodger—"somebody called in my absence, did he leave any name?" Mary—"Oh, yes, sir, he said it was immaterial."

Several women of Chicago have petitioned the common council to prohibit the police from making raids on houses of prostitution, and that the fines and imprisonment may be confined to the male visitors of such houses.

A Richmond sage says that saw-dust pills would effectually cure many of those diseases with which man kind is afflicted, if every individual would make his own sawdust.

At a ball in high life, a young man and an old gentleman seated near each other were yawning so that their jaw bones were in danger of dislocation. "Are you having a good time?" asked the young fellow. "Not at all," said the old man. "Let's cut it then." "Can't, I'm master of the house."

A telegraph operator, who recently sent a message to a family at Norwalk, Connecticut, to meet an expected visitor at the depot with the "horse," blunderingly substituted the word "hearse," and on the arrival of the train the visitor found that vehicle in waiting to transport him to his destination.

The Emperor of Russia has conferred the medal of the Order of Merit on M^{rs} Patti upon appointing her first cantatrice to the Court. This medal is surrounded with diamonds, and surmounted with the imperial crown.

A Paris letter says it has observed that the mortality among young ladies from 21 to 24 years of age, possessed of all the comforts as well as luxuries of home was never as great as this winter.

There are 12,000 wind-mills in constant use in Holland at the present day, for the simple purpose of drainage. They are almost all of colossal size, each lifting from ten millions to fifty million gallons of water every twenty-four hours.

During the last two years a million more acres were plowed up for corn in England, farmers being tempted by the high prices. On the other hand, the number of cattle, sheep, and pigs positively decreased, the cattle by 110,000, the pigs by 1,000,000, or 35 per cent.

The English courts have recently decided that a newspaper has a copyright in every word and letter of an original article contained in its pages; that no person has a right to reprint them without permission; and that a copy is not legalized even by acknowledging its source.

The following observations are by an Ohio editor: "The woman who made the butter which we bought last week is respectfully requested to exercise more judgment in proportioning the ingredients. The last batch had too much hair in it for butter, and not enough for a waterfall. There is no sense in making yourself bald headed if butter is sixty cents a pound."

Old Lady—"Can you tell me, my good man, where I can find Mr. Jones?" Pat—"Sure, ma'am, I expect it would be at his house you would find him."

Lady—"Does he live anywhere in the street here?" Pat—"Sure, no indeed; it's not for the likes of him to be livin' in the street at all."

Lady—"You stupid fellow, I mean what number does his family stop at?" Pat—"Now, ma'am, you have me; he has six boys and four girls already, but whether he means to stop at that number—"

Lady—"Oh, you blockhead!" [Exit old lady, in a tremor of indignation.]

It is anticipated that over 150,000 persons will visit Mecca, next year, on the occasion of the festival of the "Arafat." The Pilgrims visit Mecca in the Dhul-hajja or the months of the Pilgrims, commencing this year on March 4th. One of the rites consists in standing on Mount Arafat, near Mecca, until sunset. This ceremony takes place this year on Friday, March 11th, the Mohammedan weekly holy day, and according to the traditions of that sect, confers as much merit as three visits to Mecca in other years. The immense crowds now assembling in the vicinity of Mecca have already made its appearance among the Pilgrims coming from the Persian Gulf, and it is feared that the deaths from that disease may be as numerous as in the year 1865, when the mortality was frightful.

The famous tunnel under the Thames was made forty years ago, in spite of insuperable difficulties, and at an overwhelming expense. Chalk and gravel are so penetrable to water that it is almost impossible to tunnel through them and the attempt, though successful, has hitherto been a warning rather than an encouragement to succeeding engineers. The careful geological survey of this region has proved that a little higher up is a bed of the impervious London clay, through which no water would percolate. P. H. Barlow projected a tunnel through this clay, and it was begun the 25th of April, and on the 8th of October the passage under the river was safely effected. The entire cost will be under \$200,000, and its position—half a mile further up than the old tunnel, and nearer the Tower and London Bridge—will make it very valuable. The passage will be made by an engine, drawn by a stationary engine, and life on either side will take the passengers up and down.

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