

Varieties.

—A teacher of vocal music asked an old lady if her grandson had any ear for music. Wa'al, said the old woman, I rahly don't know; won't you just take a candle and see.

—Tom, said a wag to a hanger-on at a roadside house, tell me the greatest lie you ever told in your life, and I'll give you a glass of ale.—Me! said Tom, I never told a lie.—Landlord, draw the ale, said the other.

—Some of the hosts of the olden time were not nice in the treatment of their royal patrons. He was a bold Boniface of the White Horse who charged George II. a guinea for an egg, and who, on being asked by his majesty himself if eggs were scarce, drily replied, No, sir, but kings are.

—A Galway bailiff having been questioned as to whether he had spoken to any of the locked-up jury during the night, gravely answered, No, my lord; they kept calling out for me to bring them whisky, but I always said, Gentlemen of the jury, it is my duty to tell you that I am sworn not to speak to you.

—Montesquieu was discussing a question with a counsellor of the Parliament of Bordeaux, who was witty but rather hot-headed. The latter, concluding some very fiery remarks, said, Mr. President, if this is not as I tell you, I will give you my head.—I accept it, replied Montesquieu, coolly. Small presents keep up friendship.

—The Fort Wayne, Ind., Democrat tells of a woman in Allan county who plows, fishes, sings, and nurses all at once. She has a bell attached to the fishing-pole that gives notice when there is a "bite;" she suspends her twin babies in a tree, and drives the plow around the field to the tune of "Old Hundred."

—A printer in putting in type a report of the grain market, used a damaged o in the word oats, making the sentence read, "the supply of cats is scarce." The eye of an old lady who was hastily scanning the morning newspaper, caught the sentence, and its novelty led her to repeat it aloud, accompanied by an exclamation—"Cats scarce! That's no to be wondered at when Wombwell's Menagerie is in the toon."

—A late Earl of Kelly was relating in a company that he had listened to a sermon in Italy, in which the preacher described the alleged miracle of St. Anthony preaching to the fishes, which, in order to listen to him, held their heads out of the water. I can believe the miracle, said Henry Erskine, if your lordship was at church.—I was certainly there, said the peer. Then, rejoined Henry, there was at least one fish out of water.

—Foote, the comedian, traveling in the west of England, dined one day at an inn. When the cloth was removed the landlord asked him how he liked his fare. I have dined as well as any man in England, said Foote. Except Mr. Mayor, cried the landlord. I do not except anybody whatever, said he. But you must, bawled the host. I won't.—You must. At length the strife ended by the landlord (who was a petty magistrate) taking Foote before the Mayor, who observed it had been customary in that town, for a great number of years, always to except the Mayor, and accordingly fined him a shilling for not conforming to this ancient custom. Upon this decision, Foote paid the shilling, at the same time observing that he thought the landlord the greatest fool in Christendom—except Mr. Mayor.

—The late Lord Elgin when passing through New York on his way to England from Canada, had occasion to cash a draft on a bank in that city. Entering the establishment, he took up a pen and endorsed the document Elgin and Kincardine, (his titles), and presented it to the cashier, who in his turn looked at it over and over again, referred to the Directory, and at last returned the draft to the astonished earl. We don't know the firm of El-gine and Kincar-dine, sir. It ain't in the Di-rect-ory, and we decline to cash it without a reference.—But, my good sir, retorted his lordship, I am the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, on Her Britannic Majesty's service, returning to England by steamer leaving today.—I don't know anything about what you say, sir. We know of no such names, so you must get some responsible firm to certify the signature. So his lordship had to hire a coach in search of his consul or the Cunards to certify the signature of the house of Elgin and Kincardine.

FUEL EXPERIMENTS.

A company has been formed in London for the manufacture of a new fuel from coal waste. The refuse coal is mixed with common farins, alkali and hot water, in the proportion of eight pounds of farins, three pounds of British alkali, and twenty-five gallons of water to the ton, and the composition is kneaded by two broad rollers in a revolving mill. The mixture is then turned out by a hinged shovel into a shoot, whence it drops into a series of small buckets attached to a strap, the buckets dropping their contents down the shoots into moulding machines, where the mixture is compressed into bricks. As these fuel bricks are shaped, they are laid on open iron-straps trays in small trucks, which, when full, are run on rails into tunnels closed at both ends by iron shutters, and there they are dried rapidly by hot air driven in by revolving fans.

The quality of this fuel is said to be equal to that of the coal in ordinary use, and it is excellent for gas purpose. The company get a good profit by selling it for 17 shillings (\$4.50) a ton—about \$1.50 cheaper than coal.

The use of petroleum as a substitute for coal is the subject of a parliamentary paper just issued in England. Experiments were recently made at the Woolwich Dockyard for the purpose of testing the value of petroleum for raising steam in marine boilers with the following results: A mixture of American oil and "coal oil once run" only evaporated 7.77 pounds of water per pound weight of oil, while one pound of Welch coal evaporated 9 pounds to 9½ pounds of water. The experiments with "coal oil once run" alone gave a better result, the evaporation being 10½ pounds of water, but the rate of combustion of the oil and the rate of evaporation of the water per square foot of grate were low, and the smoke tubes became very foul. The best results were obtained from the use of Burslem oil, which evaporated 18.38 pounds of water; shale oil, 17.92 pounds; and Torbraine Hill mineral oil, which evaporated 18.38 pounds. The smoke from each kind of oil was very moderate, and the tubes at the conclusion of each experiment was tolerably clean. The report concludes that if results as favorable as the three last mentioned can be obtained under ordinary circumstances, it will appear that one pound of oil will evaporate about double the weight of water which one pound of coal burnt in the ordinary way would evaporate, but at the same time the greater cost of oil (from £10 to £23 per ton) must be taken into consideration. If, however, a great reduction were to take place in the price of the oils, "probably under some circumstances they might be advantageously used instead of coal. The experiments, therefore, so far as they have gone, may be regarded as of considerable value in showing the great evaporative power of these oils."

DURING a violent thunder storm, which prevailed at St. Louis recently, the bells and gongs of the hook and ladder houses, and all the other engine houses were violently rung by the electric fluid which passed along the telegraph wires. The bell of the First Presbyterian Church, corner of Fourteenth and Locust streets, gave out several peals from the same cause.

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