

**NEW AND CURIOUS.**

It is said that in the sandy deserts of Arabia whirling winds sometimes excavate pits 200 feet in depth, extending down to the harder stratum on which the great bed of sand rests.

The astronomers have figured out a sort of continuous performance this year in the way of eclipses. Two eclipses have already occurred, one of the moon on January 7th, and one of the sun on the 22d. Two more eclipses of the sun are scheduled, for July 18th and December 13th; also two more of the moon, for July 3d and December 29th.

A French inventor converts grain into dough at one operation without milling. The grain is soaked, and entering one end of the machine is crushed and disintegrated, the paste passing on to the kneading machine at the other end of the apparatus, where it is aerated and kneaded into dough which can be preserved indefinitely without injury. The nutritive qualities of the grain, bran included, are kept.

The custom of christening a new vessel by breaking a bottle of wine over its prow is of old Saxon origin, and it certainly bears the impress of its heathen birth. The Japanese have a much more beautiful and appropriate ceremony. When the subjects of the Mikado launch a new ship, they liberate a bird or several birds from a cage swung near the bowsprit. The cage is so constructed that pulling a string, just as the vessel slides down the ways, causes it to fall to pieces, and the birds flutter merrily about the new ship, which, liberated from her land cradle, is to skim the waves like one of them.

A German inventor has made an improvement in incandescent gas burners which may prove of much importance. The invention depends upon the fact that when the pressure of the gas upon the incandescent body from which the light is derived is sufficiently increased the light becomes very intense, although agreeable to the eye. Gas is supplied to the burner under a pressure of three-and-a-half atmospheres, and it is said that a single incandescent jet of the ordinary size can be made to emit a light equal to that of more than 1000 candles. The inventor claims that the cost of this light is much less than that of the electric arc light.

Those who have accepted the inconsistent name of Welsh rabbit for toasted cheese on the assumption that it is a corruption of Welsh "rarebit", will have to revise their view. According to a writer in McMillan's Magazine, "Welsh rabbit is a genuine slang term, belong-

ing to a large group which describe in the same humorous way the special dish or product of a peculiar district. An Essex lion is a calf; a Fieldlane duck is a baked sheep's head; Glasgow magistrates or Norfolk capons are red herrings; Irish apricots or Munster plums are potatoes; Gravesend sweetmeats are shrimps."

**The Flag Salute.**

Some time ago we copied an article from the American Sentinel regarding a salute required of the pupils in the Boulder, Colo., public schools. Referring to that article the Sentinel says in its last issue: "The flag salute is neither local nor accidental. The boulder incident is but the outcropping of an influence that is at work all through the land. Since noticing that, the news comes that the same salute is being practiced in the Iowa State Normal School, where the young people are trained in the art of teaching, the design being that the graduates as they go out to teach introduce the salute in their schools. In Pennsylvania the same influence is at work, and experiences similar to those in Boulder have occurred. Thus the forces are gathering for an attack upon the principle of religious freedom in the public schools."

**Just for Fun.**

An Englishman and an Irishman, according to Short Stories, were walking in the suburbs of Dublin one day, and halted for a few minutes to view the surrounding country. It so happened there had been an execution in the vicinity that day, and the gibbet was still standing.

"Pat," said the Englishman, pointing to it, "where would you be now, if that gibbet had its dues?"

"Begorra," replied Pat, "I'd be sthandin' here alone."

Maud: "Mamma, please answer me this one question. What is a spirit?"

Mamma: "Why, Maud, I can't explain it to you; you would not understand if I did."

Maud: "Oh, yes, I should."

Mamma: "Well, then, a spirit is something you perceive but don't see. Now you don't know any better than you did before."

Maud: "Yes, I do. Its a skunk,"

A small schoolgirl in one of the rural districts of Georgia was told to write a composition on "Temperance." She turned out the following: "Temperance is more better than whisky. Whisky is ten cents a drink and lots of it. My pa drinks whisky. He has been full 113 times. One night he came home late and ma went out and cut some hickories and walloped him good. Then she ducked his head in a tub of soapuds and locked him up in the barn. And the next morning my pa said he reckoned he'd swear off."

About five years ago, when ice-

machines were first introduced into Fort Worth, Tex., a bardshell Baptist from the woods of Kaufman county visited the city, and upon his return reported that they were making ice every day up in Fort Worth. It was during July, and the pilgrim was at once brought before his church on charge of lying. At the request of the accused, a committee from the church was appointed to go with him to Fort Worth and verify his story. The committee returned and reported that they were indeed making ice every day in Fort worth, using a big steam engine for that purpose. Thereupon a church meeting was promptly called; and both the original offender and the whole committee were ignominiously expelled from the church for lying.



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