

# The Albany Register.

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## Curbing the Temper.

A Danbury man named Reubens recently saw a statement that counting one hundred, when tempted to speak angrily, would save a man a great deal of trouble. This statement sounded a little singular at first; but the more he read it over the more favorably he became impressed with it, finally concluding to adopt it. Next door to Reubens lives a man who has made five distinct attempts in the past fortnight to secure a dinner of green peas by the first of July, and each time has been retarded by Reubens' hens. The next morning after Reubens made his resolution this man found his fifth attempt to have been miscarried. Then he called on Reubens. He said:

"What in thunder do you mean by letting your hens tear up my garden?"

Reubens was tempted to call him a mudfoot—a new name, just coming into general use; but he remembered his resolution, put down his rage, and meekly observed:

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight—"

Then the mad neighbor, who had been eyeing this answer with a great deal of suspicion, broke in again:

"Why don't you answer my question, you rascal?"

But still Reubens maintained his equanimity and went on with the test.

"Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen—"

The mad neighbor stared harder than ever.

"Seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one—"

"You are a mean skunk!" said the mad neighbor, backing toward the fence.

Reubens' face flushed at this charge, but he only said:

"Twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six—"

At this figure the neighbor got up on the fence in some haste; but, suddenly thinking of his peas, he opened his mouth:

"You mean, low-lived rascal! For two cents I could knock your cracked head over a barn; and I would—"

"Twenty-seven, twenty-eight," interrupted Reubens—"twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three—"

Here the neighbor broke for the house, and, entering it, violently slammed the door behind him. But Reubens did not dare let up on the enumeration; and so he stood out there alone in his own yard and kept on counting, while his burning cheeks and flashing eyes eloquently affirmed his judgment. When he got up into the eighties his wife came to the door in some alarm.

"Why, Reubens, man what is the matter with you?" she said. "Do come into the house."

But he didn't let up. She came out to him, and clung trembling to him; but he only looked into her eyes and said:

"Ninety-three, ninety-four, ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred—go into the house, old woman, or I'll bust ye!"

And she went.

A news-monger of a contemporary, hard up for an item, perpetrates the following: "David, King of Israel, while sitting on a little balcony in the rear of his palace, one lazy summer day, just after dinner, smoking his briarwood pipe, beheld Bersh-eba, the beautiful wife of Uriah, the Hittite, taking a bath. David put on his Sunday clothes, and sought an introduction." From this acquaintance arose a scandal, which set all the gossips of Jerusalem agog, and the affair afterward cost David a great deal of annoyance, and more than \$500 interest.

## The Use of Rattlesnakes.

It may not be generally known to our readers that snake poison is useful for medicinal purposes in these days and that, under the name of "Cortalus H. rridus," the poison of the rattlesnake is utilized in homoeopathic pharmacy. Messrs. Thomson and Capper, of Liverpool, having recently imported a number of rattlesnakes, abstracted the venom from the live animals in the following ingenious manner: The reptiles were in separate compartments of a case, fitted with a double lid for extra security. A long staff, fitted with a thick Indian rubber noose at one end, which could be loosened or tightened by the hand at pleasure, was inserted through the partially opened lid, and the opportunity quickly seized of slipping the loop over the snake's head, the loop being immediately drawn tight by means of the core attached thereto.

With a similar contrivance the tail was next fastened, and the snake being thus securely held, was lifted out of the box to the floor of the room. A pickle bottle containing chloroform was then thrust over the snake's head and carefully held in its place by keeping time with the animal's efforts to extricate itself. As the reptile became stupefied the noose was gradually relaxed to enable the lungs to have full play, and when it appeared powerless the snake was laid in a long narrow box made for the purpose, with an aperture at one end, out of which its head projected while the after operation was performed.

Its jaws were then opened and fixed, and the poison glands were pressed with forceps, then with the gloved finger and thumb, while a small-blown graduated pial was held to receive the drops as they oozed slowly out through the poison fangs. Twenty drops were the average quantity yielded from each snake. The venom is of a straw color, thick and gummy in consistency, and decidedly acid in its reaction on litmus paper. It is readily soluble in glycerine or water, but is precipitated by strong alcohol, the precipitate being redissolved with the addition of a little water. Its toxicological properties were fully tried on a variety of animals. Half a drop produced death on a linnet within three minutes after being injected under the wings. The symptoms produced in all cases were very similar.—Court Journal.

**BOILING EGGS.**—A story is told of a negro in Virginia whose master threatened to give him a flogging if he boiled his eggs hard again. Next morning the egg came to the table still harder than before. "You rascal," shouted the enraged planter, "didn't I tell you to cook those eggs soft?" "Yes, massa," said the frightened slave, "an' I got up at two o'clock dis mornin', an' biled 'em five hours, an' it seems to me I nebber kin get dese eggs softer!" During the war one of the Northern hotel keepers was on a visit to Norfolk. The eggs came to the table boiled hard. "Look here," said the hotel keeper, "Sambo, these eggs are boiled too hard. Now take my watch and boil them some three minutes by it." He gave the negro his splendid gold watch. In about five minutes the freedman returned with the eggs and watch on the same plate. The watch was wet. "What have you been doing to my watch," asked the Northern visitor. "Why it's all wet." "Yes sah," said the negro. "I biled the watch wid de eggs. All right dis time, sah."

An interesting story on 4th page.

**A BLUNDER.**—Whitlaw Reid was a dozen years ago editing the Xenia (Ohio) News. In his "Traits of Journalism," he tells the following: "One day we had an advertisement of that Columbus Commercial College, and the foreman came to me and told me there must be an editorial notice of it. My time was short. The forms were waiting and I wrote straightway, 'The Columbus Commercial College is an excellent and well-deserving institution. The advertisement appears in another column.' I sent to the proof reader and went home. I got up late the next day, and the edition had all been mailed before I saw it. You can imagine the perfectly amiable state of feeling when I read, 'The Columbus Commercial College is an excellent a hell-deserving institution.' You can't believe it, but to this day the bill for that advertisement is running."

The word "quiz," to make fun of, or poke fun at a person, was the coinage of a theatrical manager in Dublin, who, at a drinking party with his friends, when the conversation turned upon the subject of words, offered to bet the wine that he could then and there coin a word which would be in the mouths of all Dublin next day. The bet being taken the party dispersed, the manager called up his call-boys and runners, gave them pieces of chalk and ordered them to run all over the city, chalking the word "quiz" on every door, shutter and fence they came to. This was done, and as a matter of course the new word was in every body's mouth the next day. Had this manager been an American of to-day he would have been one of our great and successful advertisers.

**BAD NEWS FOR BALD-HEADED MEN.**—Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, a physician of large experience and a close observer of facts, says that according to his observations nearly all persons of both sexes who lived to the age of eighty years and over retained a considerable amount of hair. His hypothesis is that a person who retains his hair past the age of sixty-five has a good prospect of living to be over eighty. The rule may be tested by any one calling to mind the ages and condition of the hair of persons of his acquaintance of the ages indicated, the condition of whose hair is known to him. The vast majority of persons who become bald, or lose their hair, do so between thirty-five and forty-five, and these rarely live to be over sixty-five or seventy years of age.

Commodore Vanderbilt has tacked on his half million gift to the Central University of the Methodist Church one or two conditions that will not be personally unpleasant to the officials. First that Bishop M'Tyerie accept the presidency of the institution for life, with a salary of \$3000 and the use of a dwelling free of rent. Second, to check imprudent appropriations, the president is given a veto power over resolutions, which only a three-fourth's vote of the board can override. The interest only of the fund shall be used in carrying on the university. At a meeting of the Board of Trust held at Nashville, Tennessee, on the 28th ult., it was resolved to apply to the Chancery Court to change the name of the institution to Vanderbilt University.

An Odd Fellows lodge was instituted at Brownsville on the 17th.

## HUMOROUS.

When is charity like a bee? When it begins to hum.

A bear in New Jersey has been called on to take out a license; it is always bruin.

Isn't it inconsistent to speak of the "apple of your eye," when everybody knows they're a pair?

Another Congressman—from Alabama this time—had handed over his back pay—to his wife.

The West is a great country. A Minnesota farmer lost a gimlet three years ago. The other day he cut down a tree near his barn, and found in it a three-quarter inch auger.

The latest verdict recorded was upon a gentleman who expired in a fit of inebriation. The jury returned: "Death by hanging—round a grog-shop."

A New Hampshire farmer scouts the idea of taking a newspaper at two whole dollars a year, and posts a notice on the schoolhouse that "3 hogs hev strade or bin stooled" from him.

"Calf's Head," remarked the waiter, quite innocent of any equivocal intent, but when asked what the calf said, he very unreasonably took umbrage, and declined further conversation.

A Seneca Fall man who died the other day left a will saying: "To that old liar and tattler, the widow Jones, I bequeath two cents." Didn't she hop, though!

That was an unhappy editor who wrote that "white pique costumes are now popular" and was gravely informed by the proof next morning that "white pine coffins are not popular."

A serious charge has been brought against a school teacher in Illinois, the specifications of which are: "1. Immorality! 2. Partiality! 3. Keeping disorderly school! 4. Carrying un-laundered washings!" The committee who wrote the charge thinks of running the school himself next quarter.

"Now, Willie, dear," says Fanny, do have a little courage: when I have a powder to take, I don't like it any more than you do, but I make up my mind that I will take it, and I do."

"And when I have a powder to take," replied Willie, "I make up my mind that I won't."

"Do you like chickens?" asked a remarkably modest Nashville youth of his sweetness, as he was walking about two feet from her on his way to church Sunday night. "Certainly I do," she replied; "why do you ask such a question as that?" "Because I thought if you liked chickens, you wouldn't object to taking a wing," and he crooked his arm in an irresistible manner. Sweetness took a wing.

The Detroit Free Press says: "A farmer went out of a store in that city the other day leaving his dog behind, and the clerks got an oyster can and a string and thought they would have a little fun. The dog smelt sniff, and after taking a mutton chop out of one young man's leg, went through a ten-dollar pane of glass with extraordinary facility. The clerks figure: 'Four clerks into ten dollars' worth of glass twenty shillings each.'"

A French gentleman, learning English to some purpose, replied thus to the salutations:

"How do you do, monsieur?"

"Do vat?"

"How do you find yourself?"

"I never loses myself."

"How do you feel?"

"Smooth; you just feel me."

"Good morning, monsieur?"

"Good! No, it's a bad one; it's vet and nasty."

"Mr. Speaker," exclaimed a member of the Arkansas Legislature, "my colleague taunts me with a desire for fame. I scorn the imputation, sir. Fame, sir! What is fame? It is a shayed pig with a greased tail, which slips through the hands of thousands, and then is accidentally caught by some lucky fellow that happens to hold on to it. I let this greased-tailed quadruped go by me without an effort to clutch it, sir!"

A few days since the grand jury ignored a bill against a negro for stealing chickens. Before discharging him from custody, the judge bade him stand up and, after a severe reprimand, concluded as follows:

"You may go now, John; but (shaking his finger at him) let me warn you never to appear here again."

John, with delight beaming from his big white eyes, and a broad grin displaying a row of ivory, replied:

"I wouldn't bin here dis time, judge, only de constable fetch me!"

A girl in Iowa, without legs, has married a man without arms, and the local papers say they get along splendidly.

## THE BENDER FAMILY.

From Assistant City Marshal Newbern, who has just returned from a long but fruitless search after the Benders, in Texas, says the Fort Scott (Kansas) Monitor, of May 20th, we obtain the following description of the personnel of the different members of that very agreeable and amiable family, the first full and authentic description yet published:

The old man, John Bender, or "old man Bender," as he was called, is fifty-five to sixty years old, about five feet, seven inches in height, rather round-shouldered, with very dark complexion, and very heavy beard cut rather short; hair long and dark, mixed with gray, and very heavy eye-lashes; nose sharp and very long; hands very spare, with cords upon the backs prominent; gait slow and sluggish—seemed rather to stalk around than walk; weight 140 to 150 pounds. He had a sleepy, downcast look, and was grim and surly in his deportment. His cheeks are sunken and rather long. He speaks English in a very broken manner, his native tongue being the Low Dutch. His voice seems to come rather from his chest than his mouth. He is slightly bald, and is careless and slovenly in his dress.

The old woman, Mrs. Bender, is aged about fifty years, and is very nearly as tall as the old man; broad-shouldered and rather flat-made, and long-waisted; skin dark and tawny; face wrinkled and rather pointed, with firm mouth; neck slim and cordy; hair, dark brown. She has a quick, nervous walk, and sets her whole weight down when she steps. She speaks sharp, quick and broken.

The young man who went by the name of John Bender, was a large, strongly built man, with full, round face, large eyes, large nostrils; swarthy, leather-like complexion, light brown hair, and rather heavy jaws. Height, five feet seven inches. He was very large and square in the shoulders, full-breasted, and heavy-bodied, was inclined to run his boots over on the outside. He has a wild, scary expression, but looks square in the face when talking, and is generally smiling when in conversation. He shows his teeth, which are large, when laughing, and has a habit of drawing down the corners of his mouth. There is a scar across two of his fingers of one hand, and one finger is stiffened. His eyes are dark grey. His age is about twenty-eight years.

Katie Bender, the "she devil" of this gang of fiends, was aged twenty-one or twenty-two years. Her complexion is yellow. She had very high cheek bones, very sharp chin, and the contour of her countenance is said to resemble that of a wolf. The girls used to say she had a "wolfish face." Her hair was a light brown, with a tinge of red. She is somewhat round or stoop-shouldered, rather hollow-breasted. She is rather slender-built; and has a long, slim waist. Her ears have been pierced for earrings, but she wore none. Her eyes are dark grey. Her nose is somewhat flat, with large nostrils. She is quick and rapid in her speech. Her weight is 110 pounds.

The name of "John Gerhardt" and "Johannah Bender," found registered in a Bible in the house, has given rise to the suspicion that these were in reality the names of the young people; that their relationship as brother and sister was purely an invention, and that they were living together in adultery. Altogether the family seems to have been about as disagreeable a one as could well be imagined.

Indian tale on 4th, 5th and 8th pages—thrilling romance!