

SHORT BITS.

Often above par—A bald head. Doesn't come amiss—A baby boy. "Many are called but few" have full hands.

Widows and widowers ought to be repaired. Acids and pickles are usually the contents of a family jar.

Did a donkey ever die of softening of the braying. "Out West" they read it "Loathe the poor Indian."

Color blind—The man who marries a dusky woman. O'Donovan Rossa rather sneers at the Parnell movement.

Every man has his prejudices and every woman her bias. When is sugar like a pig's tooth? When it's in a hoghead.

Speaking of nautical terms, was Noah's wife his first mate? Children's dresses should be made plain.

Switzerland is little better than a mountain of snow this winter. Use no reproachful language against any one, neither curse nor revile.

It is a fact in natural history that pig-headed men are always bores. Girls should remember, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wiser."

"I am engaged for this set," said the hen to the rooster as she went clucking away. When a man calls his wife's maid an angel it is time for the wife to make her fly.

The boy who was kept after school for bad orthography said he was spell-bound. An Elko woman sneezed her jaw out of place, and the price of snuff has gone up.

A woman beats a man in economizing household expenses, but he beats her economizing on cigars. There is one consolation in being broke. You have nothing to lose, and everything to gain.

Shakespeare was never a success as a star actor. He never got beyond his "Twelfth Night." Young America, going to bed, handed over his new trumpet, saying, "Gan'ma, you blow white I pray."

It was Shakespeare who spelled the word "Ute" backwards and then utilized it as follows: "Et u Brute!" A Persian Proverb says—"Ten measures of talk were set down upon the earth, and the women took nine."

A Mr. Pagan was recently married to a Miss Christian. In this particular case "what will the harvest be?" Miss Calker and Mr. Waterman, of Cheshire were married recently. They intend to go into the milk business.

"Does your wife play euchre?" asked one. "No," replied the other, rubbing his head, "But she's death on poker." The reason why a man steals an umbrella is because he does not like to go out in the rain and borrow one.

Mrs. Brown says her husband is such a blunderer that he can't even try on a new boot without putting his foot in it. A man having fallen down in a fit in a tailor's shop, an envious rival said: "What's the only fit ever seen in that establishment?"

The undertakers of this country take no interest in Edison's electric light. They would rather see people using coal oil. Of a gentleman who declined an invitation to a public dinner, but sent a basket of champagne, it was properly said that his rum was better than his company.

A girl who can shed tears at a critical moment, and follow them up with a quiver-quick, can marry all round a blonde who does nothing to tries to blush. The worst case of selfishness on record is that of a youth who complained that his mother put a larger mustard plaster on his younger brother than she did on him.

A poetess sings: "Tho' I were dead, my heart still beats for thee." This would certainly be a "dead beat," and it strikes us the poetess assumes too much poetic license. A bad little boy, upon being promised to be by his mother if he would take a dose of castor oil, obtaining the money, and then told his parent that she might castor oil in the street.

A baby came to a family in Maine last week, and a bright five-year-old brother, patting it playfully under the chin inquired: "Say, how was God when you left?"

WHERE DOES THE DAY BEGIN?—As a matter of fact, the day begins all around the world, not at the same instant of time, but just as the sun visits successive portions of the earth in his journey from east to west. But the traveler who crosses the Pacific Ocean can give another answer to the above question; that on the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude—one half of the circumference of the globe, starting from Greenwich east or west—there is an arbitrary change or dropping of a day and that at this point, if anywhere, the day may be said to begin. It was with strange feeling that the writer, crossing the Pacific, having gone to bed on Saturday night, leaving everything pertaining to the almshouse in a satisfactory condition, awoke on Monday morning. Sunday had completely dropped from our calendar, for that week at least. Every one knows that in traveling around the world from east to west a day is lost, and in order to adjust his reckoning to the place he has left, one must drop a day as if he had not lived it, when in reality the time has passed by lengthening every day during the journey. For a long time it was the custom for sailors to affect this change pretty much where they pleased; but it has become a settled rule with American and English navigators that at the one hundred and eightieth degree a day must be passed if going west, and one added if going east, in which latter case the traveler enjoys two Sundays or two Thursdays, as the case may be. It is most likely that the particular degree was decided on from the fact that, except a few scattered islands of Polynesia, there are no large communities, with their vast commercial and social transactions, to be affected by the change.

The Empress of Russia.

From the memories of the Count de Reiset I translate the following, as he is the last of an old school of diplomats who leave their mark at every Court in Europe, carrying hence in return recollections and regrets which they are one day sure to publish. Thirty-nine years ago in January the Grand Duke Alexander of Russia set out, accompanied by Count Orloff, and a numerous suite, to visit the various Courts of Germany, where Princesses, marriageable and suitable, were officially reported to exist. He went to Berlin, of course, and to several other of the North German capitals. He arrived shortly afterward at Frankfurt, and put up at the Hotel de Russie. But no marriageable Princesses were to be found at Frankfurt, at that time a free Republic.

It was only to be the halting place for the night, and Karlsruhe their goal, where the Princess Alexandrina, who afterward became Duchess of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, and the Princess Marie of Baden, afterward Duchess of Hamilton, and the mother of the Princess of Monaco, whose divorced suit at Rome is a cause celebre, formed a pair of the greatest attractions in Germany. The imperial travelers were leaving Frankfurt, therefore, when the Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt sent an invitation to the Grand Duke, begging his company at the neighboring castle of Darmstadt. The young Prince somewhat unwillingly accepted the invitation. The dinner was a family one, and the young Princess Marie did not appear. Alexander was even ignorant of her existence, for her name had not appeared on the official list of German princesses aspiring to the hand of the first of continental princes. In the evening, however, the Grand Duke, while passing the dining-room of the castle, met a young lady accompanied by Mlle. de Grancy, her governess. They were going to the drawing-room for tea, and the young lady modestly stepped aside to allow the Prince to pass. Seeing this young girl, so naive and so gentle, the Grand Duke asked of the Hessian nobleman who she was.

"Tis her Highness, the Princess Marie of Hesse," said the Grand Duke; "how old is she?" "Immediately reaching the dining-room he begged to be presented to her. The Princess Marie was an admirable young girl—modest, simple and charming. She had been brought up somewhat in the Cinderella fashion in the family of Hesse. The Grand Duke was struck still more by her retiring goodness and modest beauty, and during the evening conversed with her frequently. On his return to Frankfurt the Grand Duke scarcely spoke a word to the gentlemen of his suite, and retired at once to his apartments. The following morning Count Orloff (now Russian Ambassador elect to London) waited on the prince to receive his orders and to learn the hour he had fixed for his departure for Baden.

"My dear Count," said the Grand Duke, "we need go no further, I have made my choice; my journey is at an end."

"What?" replied Count Orloff, astonished, "what choice has your Imperial Highness made?" "I shall marry the Princess Marie of Hesse if she will do me the honor of granting me her hand."

"But," said the Count, "from every point of view such a thing is impossible. The Princess Marie has not even been placed on the list of German princesses now marriageable. She is in weak health, and, moreover, too young. Your highness has not yet seen the Baden princess, and the Grand Duke would be offended if you did not go to Karlsruhe!"

"If necessary, for politeness' sake, I shall go to Karlsruhe; but I spent all night reflecting, and I shall only marry Princess Marie, who belongs to a family that has already given Russia one empress, and which is one of the most illustrious and ancient in Germany."

Count Orloff was in despair at this definite speech, and wrote off at once to the Emperor Nicholas. Indeed, this news was received with astonishment in the Imperial Family. The Princess Marie was known scarcely at all, having, since the death of her mother, been brought up privately by Mlle. de Grancy. The most intimate friends of the Imperial family did their utmost to thwart such an alliance.

But the Emperor Nicholas, whose affection for his son was unbounded, would not oppose his inclination, and said almost publicly, in order to put an end to the various rumors afloat: "Princess Marie of Hesse, like all other German princesses, is to be found in the Gotha Almanach. She is, moreover, a charming young lady, who will make the happiness of our son. Both the Empress and myself think that Alexander ought to marry according to his liking."

It may be easily imagined what joy this news caused to the Hessian family. From that moment the gaze of the whole of Europe was directed to that young girl, so modest and so accomplished, who was soon to ascend one of the greatest thrones in the world.

From the Count de Reiset I cease to quote, but must add, by the light of my own brief experience in touring to and from St. Petersburg, that I have never heard but one voice of love and admiration for this Empress, who never forgot her maiden simplicity, modesty and virtuous bearing. She was born on the 28th of August, 1824, and married the 28th of April, 1841, just about four months after the accidental meeting at Darmstadt. I have described from Count de Reiset's memoirs.—London Corr. Baltimore Sun.

After family prayer, a few evenings since, a little Quincey boy asked: "Mamma, how can God hear folks pray when he's so far away?" Before the lady could frame a suitable reply a sunny-faced little miss of five summers vehemently said: "I jes' bet he's got telephons a runnin' to every place!"

Finding a basket on her stoop, a cautious woman in Newark, B. I., took it to a police station, and was surprised to learn afterwards that it contained a twenty-pound turkey, and not a foundling.

An old gentleman in the interior writes to know what of sort of timber the President's cabinet is made. The present one was manufactured out of a returning board.

NOT TALL ENOUGH.—A good story is told of Prince Alexander, of Holland. The Prince, a young man of rather staid and literary tastes, paid a visit to Berlin last Summer, and a review was given in his honor by the Imperial Court. Military patents form an integral part of every grand procession in the Prussian capital; but Prince Alexander, with little inclination for soldiery, sat in silent contemplation while the troops were defiling before him. All at once the Crown Prince drew the guest's attention to a Uhlan regiment, with the remark that they were "a fine body of men." "Yes," replied Prince Alexander, "but they are not tall enough." This reply, delivered with the original Dutch phlegm, a little surprised his interlocutor, who, however, merely observed: "Very well, then you must see my cuirassiers." The cuirassiers, erect in their saddles, like men-at-arms of the Middle Ages, went by in breast-plates and plumes. "Well, what do you think of them?" asked Prince Fritz. "Splendid men, but not tall enough." "Still more piqued than astonished at this unexpected response, the heir to the crown of Germany exclaimed: "Indeed! then wait till you see the regiments of the guard." In due time these magnificent six-footers made their appearance, and the same query fell from the lips of the Crown Prince. "They are not tall enough," very quietly returned Prince Alexander, adding gently but meaningly, "We can flood our country, when we choose, twelve feet deep."

Musical Taste Advance us. We are not musical ourselves, but have lots of friends who are, and for that reason take much more of an interest in the fine art than we otherwise would. Our attention is so often attracted to the beautifully arranged show-window of Bartsch's music store, that we are induced to drop in and have a social chat with Mr. Warren, the genial manager. He has long ago proved himself a gentleman of experience in his liberal but judicious way of advertising. He is a believer in printer's ink, but don't like to dab it on too thick. It is gratifying to see the steady increase of stock in this establishment, and we are informed that the end is not yet. Each steamer brings something new. A large lot of piano covers, books and stools are on the way from the East, and expected soon. The demand for the world-renowned Steinway piano has been such that Mr. Bartsch was unable to get from the factory enough to supply the wants of the trade. Mr. Warren notes a very decided improvement in the musical taste of Portland during the past two years. A much better class of music and books are in demand. The call for the different operas and classic music is ten fold greater. This is gratifying indeed, for why should we not cultivate a taste for the best? We cheerfully recommend this establishment to the lovers of music, and the disposition to please is plainly manifested. No inquiry or letter goes unanswered, and everything is done in a business-like way, which cannot fail to give satisfaction, and build up an enviable trade.

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PORTLAND, Oregon, August 2, 1879. Having a severe back ache last winter, I was induced to try the OREGON KIDNEY TEA. I found it very beneficial in its results. It was not more unpleasant to take than other tea. I would recommend it to those afflicted as I was. JOHN P. FARMER.

PORTLAND, Oregon, July 31, 1879. The OREGON KIDNEY TEA has cured my back and kidneys, and I am at a loss to express my gratitude. I shall always remember the OREGON KIDNEY TEA with pleasure and esteem, and highly recommend it to all my friends and acquaintances. J. H. P. DOWNING (at P. Sellings').

PORTLAND, Oregon, July 31, 1879. While I was at Tillamook last winter I was afflicted in my back and kidneys so that I was almost impossible for me to reach Portland. When I got here I was induced to try the OREGON KIDNEY TEA. I drank, at my meals, the tea made from it, and it has effected a radical cure. I can highly recommend it to all who were afflicted as I was. E. JOHN.

EGGERS CITY, Oregon, Oct. 26, 1879. I hereby certify that I was suffering from an attack of back ache so severe that I went about doubled up, and could not straighten up. I used one package of the OREGON KIDNEY TEA, and I am fully persuaded that I was restored by its help. JOHN W. LEMIERE.

HARRISBURG, Oregon, Dec. 31, 1879. The OREGON KIDNEY TEA has done my wife as much if not more good than any of the many remedies she has used for pains in the back, and I believe it to be a good remedy for the diseases which it is recommended for. A. M. COX.

ASTORIA, Oregon, Dec. 26, 1879. I take pleasure in testifying to the merits of the OREGON KIDNEY TEA. For the past three years I have been suffering from kidney troubles, and during that time have tried nearly every kind of kidney medicine in the market, almost without any relief. Having heard that the OREGON KIDNEY TEA possessed wonderful properties, I purchased a package, and from the first dose obtained relief, and by the use of the one package feel completely cured. SAMUEL GRAY.

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HARRISBURG, Oregon, Dec. 31, 1879. Some three months ago I was attacked with severe pain in my back. I bought a package of the OREGON KIDNEY TEA, and by the time I had used one-half of it I was entirely relieved and have not been troubled since. I cheerfully recommend it to all who may be suffering from a lame or weak back as a pleasant, safe and good remedy. B. J. GRIGSBY.

PORTLAND, Oregon, Jan. 12, 1880. Having a severe back ache last summer, I tried the OREGON KIDNEY TEA. I used one can, which effected a radical cure. I would recommend it to all who are afflicted with an unyielding remedy. JULIUS ACH.

INDEPENDENCE, Oregon, Dec. 13, 1879. Both myself and wife have been for some years afflicted with disease of the kidneys, and had tried many remedies without obtaining any permanent relief. About three months ago we were induced to try a package of the OREGON KIDNEY TEA, which has apparently cured both of us, as since taking it two weeks we have felt no symptoms of the disease. We can heartily recommend it to others similarly afflicted, as we believe it will do all that is claimed for it. M. L. WHITE.

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