

# BREVITIES

## CHATS ABOUT MEN.

Consul General New is on a visit to this country.

William Waldorf Astor has hired a house in London at \$25,000 a year and will open a business office in that city.

The oldest spoon in the world belongs to George A. Warren, of Indianapolis. It is 220 years old and was brought from England.

A new military post at Helena, Mont., has been named Fort Harrison, by order of Secretary Elkins, in honor of the president.

When Steve Dorsey was a student at Oberlin college he used to earn a few odd dollars by whitewashing and painting houses.

Daniel Strickland, of Kent, O., is ninety-two years of age, and has devoted nearly all of his life to travel, having gone around the world twenty-four times.

The bugler who sounded the fatal charge at Balaklava is still living and in the full practice of his profession. His name is Landfried, and he is now the bandmaster of the First Sussex volunteer artillery.

Dr. Piny Earle, the insanity expert, who died at Northampton, Mass., a few days ago, is said to have descended from Ralph Earle, one of the petitioners to Charles II for permission to form Rhode Island into a corporate colony.

Lieutenant Charles Adel, of the Tenth, Fourth United States artillery, lately instructor of military tactics at the Sheffield Scientific school at Yale, is at work upon a history of the human race from the creation down to the present time.

Hamilton Earle, of London, who was married to the daughter of Sir Edwin Arnold, is a direct descendant of the Mayflower pilgrims, his grandfather, Admiral Earle, having married Elizabeth White, of Plymouth, Mass.; this also makes him a connection of the Gannett families of Cambridge and Boston.

## TURF TOPICS.

General Grant wanted the fastest trotter for his recreation "spin."

General Sheridan, a daring and reckless rider, always required a fiery steed.

President Cleveland always asked for a gentle animal when he drove out at Washington.

Election had not a 2:30 performer to his credit at 13 years of age. At 22 he had sixty-six.

This year's Two Thousand Guineas was worth \$4,600 to Mr. C. D. Rose, the owner of Bonavista.

President Arthur fancied that a pacer attached to his carriage gave him a most delightful sensation.

The sire of Nutwood was Belmont 64, Belmont lived to the age of 25 and got thirty-five trotters, against three pacers.

Baron Hirsch has decided to devote the whole of his winnings in 1891, some \$25,000, to hospitals and other kindred institutions.

President Hayes wanted a gentle horse for an early morning ride, and would not select one until he had seen several tried by the stable boys.

Mrs. Green B. Morris, the wife of Judge Morrow's owner, was one of the happiest women in America when "the Judge" won the Brooklyn handicap.

## WHAT FASHION SAYS.

Straw hats have the crowns cut out and soft silk Tam O'Shanter ones put in that are very pretty.

Gold penholders in the shape of a quill have the lengthy nerve of the feather covered with diamonds, gradually diminishing in size from the base upward.

A woman who, in this age of slender women, is stout, must beware of dresses that are not long enough in front. Also a conspicuous border or trimming at the bottom of the skirt does not become them.

White maple, which is so much used at present for inexpensive furniture, is not especially durable—not to be compared with oak, though it does not take so long to season, and is therefore not so likely to warp.

Simplicity, looseness and warmth—these are the watchwords in the realm of children's fashions. Short enough to run in, long enough to be warm, loose enough to play unrestrictedly, simple enough to allow a child to soil two a day—these are the ideas.

## AROUND THE THRONES.

Queen Margaret of Italy fills up Byron's lines of a lovable woman in being fair, fat and forty.

The story that the Duchess of Cumberland, the youngest sister of the Princess of Wales, is insane is now indignantly denied by those who profess to know.

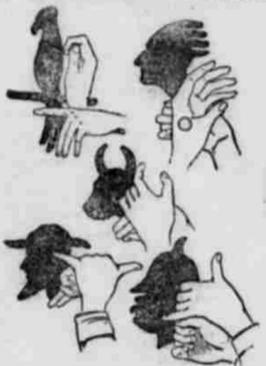
Princess Marie of Edinburgh, now engaged to Ferdinand of Hohenzollern, crown prince of Roumania, is one of the queen's prettiest and cleverest granddaughters, inheriting much of the wit and bright intelligence of her mother.

The magnificent silver gilt dinner service which Napoleon presented to his sister, Princess Pauline Borghese, has been sold to Prince Baudica, a well known Sicilian magnate, for \$11,000. It is exquisitely wrought and chased, and is thought to have been sold very cheap.

The King of Siam, who is said to possess one of the finest collections of diamonds in the world, recently sent an agent to Paris to sell some of his best gems. Foreign papers say that his majesty has decided to build a beautiful crystal palace and to purchase a magnificent yacht and wishes to raise money for the purpose.

## FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

Shadow Pictures.  
Now that the long winter evenings are here the amusement of the children is a serious consideration. Here are some new shadow pictures that it might be



well to try on Christmas night. Anyone can make them. They do not require abnormally developed hands and arms. Try them.

### They Honour Gardens.

Almost anything that grows and has healthy foliage is attractive in winter, and those who cannot indulge in several yards of glass covered flowering plants may enjoy the pleasures of a sponge garden, which can be easily managed by any plant loving child. A large round piece of coarse sponge is the first requisite, and it should be neatly trimmed of all jagged ends. Then soak it in warm water until it is thoroughly expanded, when it should be squeezed nearly dry and the openings filled with rice and barley, seeds of red clover, oats, grass, etc. The next thing is to suspend it in a window that has the sun for some hours during the day, and it should be thoroughly sprinkled with lukewarm water every evening. In a week or so tiny green shoots will appear, and these, if the sponge is kept moist, will grow as if by magic into a velvety ball of living green. In due time the clover blossoms will appear and look far prettier than when blooming in the field.

Tiny ferns and partridge vine are lovely grown in this way, as the sponge supplies the constant moisture in which they delight, and many more things than one would imagine will take kindly to the wet sponge.—Harper's Young People.

### A Clever Dog That Carries Letters.

A little postoffice near Wiltmer's enjoys the unique distinction of being the only office in the country wherein a dog officiates as assistant postmaster. Postmaster Musselman's canine assistant is a little St. Charles spaniel called Beauty, upon whom has devolved for five years the task of bringing from Wiltmer's station, a half mile distant, the bundle of morning papers from Philadelphia. Two bundles, a large and a small one, are thrown off at the station. Regularly every morning Beauty trots over the fields to the station and patiently awaits the arrival of the train. When the two bundles are thrown off Beauty seizes the smaller one in her mouth and trots directly home.

She never makes a mistake, always taking the small bundle; neither does she loiter along by the roadside, but covers the distance between Wiltmer's and the crossroads postoffice at a speed that would almost do credit to Nancy Hanks herself. Beauty has been assistant postmaster almost since her birth and could hardly be replaced.—Philadelphia Record.

### Brazilian Children Gather Oranges.

The children of Caera, Brazil, where oranges grow most plentifully, are the ones who have been selected as the harvesters of the great crop of fruit which goes northward. Their hands are small and soft, and they handle the oranges without bruising them.

These little Brazilian children climb the orange trees and throw down the fruit to other children who stand below. Another corps of children wraps the fruit in papers, and still another army of little ones packs all into crates and bags to come northward.

So, as you hold one of the juicy, yellow fall oranges in your hand, you can fancy that dear little dark skinned Brazilians have picked the fruit and wrapped it and packed it for your use.—Chicago Post.

### Will Love Her the Better.

Doctor Mamma knows what to do when girls and dollies are troubled. With needle and thread and a bottle of glue My Dolly's strength she has doubled. I'm almost ashamed to show her. If Santa Claus could see her tonight I don't suppose he would know her.

### RAILROAD JOTTINGS.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas has purchased the Fort Worth and Rio Grande road.

The Empire Fast Freight line has ordered 500 new 60,000 pound freight cars with automatic brakes and air attachments.

Superintendents, general freight agents and general passenger agents get from \$3,000 to \$8,000 a year, according to the size of the system and a business.

It is proposed to parallel the state railroad between Vienna and Peath with an electric railroad on the right bank of the Danube. The distance is about 170 miles.

J. W. Drew, western passenger agent of the Clover Leaf, announces that free reclining chairs have been placed in all the buffet coaches of the Toledo, St. Louis and Kansas City road.

The earnings of the Southern Pacific company in 1891 reached the enormous sum of \$50,450,000, an increase of more than \$2,000,000 over 1890, which had been the best of all previous years.

The stockholders of the Concord and Montreal railroad have voted to increase the capital stock \$1,500,000, making the capital stock \$3,500,000. The lease of the New Boston railroad was ratified.



Mamma has said if I learn to be a careful, kind little mother. He surely will notice the change in me. And may be I'll bring me another. But, dear little Dolly, you need not care. Nor be jealous one bit if I get her. For, though you may never be quite so fair, I'll love you the better. —Eudora N. Hamstead in St. Nicholas.

### A Plea for Sugar.

Little Bessy had been given some sugar to stop her hiccupping. After a little she went to her mother and said: "Please give me a lot more sugar. I keep hiccupping up just the same when I have only a little." —Exchange.

## BEHIND THE SPOTLIGHTS.

Wright Huntington will star next season. Mrs. Langtry threatens to come to America next season.

Fanny Davenport is said to have cleared \$50,000 on the season.

E. M. Royle will continue to play the principal part in his play of "Friends" next season.

Digby Bell has introduced a novel idea in giving a revised edition of his comic opera, "Jupiter," every month.

Reginald De Koven, the composer of "Robin Hood," is under contract to write an opera for De Wolf Hopper.

Adam Tietz, Jr., composer of the "Tar and Tarant," will probably travel with that opera as conductor next season. He is writing several new numbers for it.

Chicago is to have a subterranean theater and cyclorama. Property on Wabash avenue has been leased for the purpose and a stock company formed with a capital of \$300,000.

J. W. Summers, an actor who a number of years ago was quite well known in the United States and who went to Europe to experiment with a play called "A Noble Brother," will be one of the coming season's new stars.

The Union Square theater, New York, was recently reopened under its new management, Messrs. Greenwall & Pearson. The opening programme was "The Fabricator," by Walter Craven, and a certain raiser entitled "Adrift," by Robert Hilliard, the actor.

Sidney R. Ellis has signed a contract with Greenwall & Pearson by which Charles A. Gardner, the German comedian, will go into the Union Square theater, New York, commencing Aug. 1. "Farquhar," Mr. Gardner's greatest success, will be the only play presented.

## ODDS AND ENDS.

In Minneapolis 7,877,947 barrels of flour were made last year.

Judge at San Francisco has decided that the purchasing of mining stock on margin is illegal in that state under the present constitution.

The Alta California is to be revived under the name of the San Francisco Alta. The first issue will appear in September. The paper's politics will be independent.

An Indianapolis man has invented a process for "aging" violins, by means of which he can in two weeks give a new instrument the fullness and richness of tone of an antique Stradivarius.

The analysis by chemists at the State Agricultural college, of sugar beets raised in Iowa shows 14.41 per cent. of sugar, which is not often excelled in the best beet growing countries of Europe.

Lighthouses are classified by orders depending on the height and diameter of the lighting apparatus. There are four orders. The first three are used for sea or coast lights and the fourth for harbor purposes.

A Mormon colonization scheme has been perfected between Elder Andrew J. Stewart, of Salt Lake, and the authorities of the Mexican government, by which Mormon colonies may be established in all parts of the republic, the city of Santa Rosalia to be the headquarters.

## WHISPERS ABOUT WOMEN.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett continues to observe in Washington the custom she adopted while abroad of holding informal receptions on Sunday afternoons.

Miss Adelle Blackstone, who played Flo in "The Almighty Dollar," has left the stage, studied art in Paris, where she still lives, and is an exhibitor in the salon and maintaining a creditable position as an artist.

Mrs. George Gibb, B. A., who has just been appointed lecturer on the French language and literature at Trinity college, Victoria, is the first lady lecturer to be honored in a college affiliated to the Melbourne university.

One of the brightest of the amateur editors of America is Miss Harriet C. Cox, of the Abington (Mass.) Papyrus. It is six years since she entered amateur journalism, and last year the National Amateur Press association presented her with a handsome ring in token of the esteem in which she is held.

Mme. de Barrios, who was recently wedded to Senor de Roda in New York, was presented after the ceremony by her husband with a Wateau fan of remarkable beauty. The stocks are of pearl, richly inlaid. The scene portrayed is that of Pharaoh's daughter discovering the infant Moses.

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## Color in the Streets.

A suggestion has been made by an ingenious writer which deserves the sympathetic attention of all who are interested in the personal appearance of the metropolis. Though lucid intervals of sunshine occur in which "the ancient Strand" takes on a glory such as that described by Mr. Henley in his "London Voluntaries," we have now reached a season in which the prevalent aspect of our streets is one of well nigh unrelieved gloom. So long as the weather is dry a certain amount of variety is infused into what one may call the street-scenery by the hats and dresses of our workmanhood.

But when the rain comes down and the ladies stay indoors almost the only cheerful objects to meet the eye are what Homer would have called the roddy cheeked omnibuses and pillar posts. "Why," asks the writer, "cannot this idea be elaborated in the cause of art and cheerfulness?" And he goes on to plead eloquently in favor of the introduction of "merry mackintoshes"—scarlet, orange, sky blue, emerald green and purple—and brightly tinted umbrellas.

The idea certainly deserves a trial. At present, with that utter absence of all sense of proportion which characterizes the actions of civilized humanity in regard to dress, we don our gayest garb when the sun is brightest, and reserve our most sober habiliments for days when the sky is overcast and the sun invisible. In other words, we enter into a vain competition with the all sufficing radiance of nature, and strive to accentuate her gloomiest moods. Rather, in the interest of happiness and mirth, should we endeavor to counteract the depressing influence of fog and damp by a lavish display of bright and exhilarating color. Armed with an emerald green mackintosh—painted in luminous paint for use at night—a man would radiate cheerfulness even in the midst of a "London particular."—London Graphic.

## The Restriction of Immigration.

Shall immigration be restricted, and if so, how and to what extent, is one of the important questions that will in all probability occupy the attention of the coming session of congress. Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, is the chairman of a committee on the subject which is now sitting in this city, not for the purpose of taking testimony, but of discussing amendments to the law. His views on the subject are radical, but not more so than those of the Knights of Labor as enunciated by Mr. Powderly.

The New Hampshire senator and the general master workman are both of the opinion that immigration should be prohibited for a period of years, Mr. Chandler placing the limit at five. "Wages," he asserts, "cannot be maintained up to their present standard in this country unless immigration is stopped. If wages are reduced the Democrats will besweep out of power by popular sentiment. He addresses these as reasons why, were a Democrat, he should vote for the five years' suspension.

Republicans and Democrats are alike interested in the preservation of the republic, in its growth, progress, development, in sure, broad, steady, time enduring lines. To that end let us all unite. The republic should be the first care of every American, no matter to what party he belongs.—New York Recorder.

## Sums Wagered on the Turf.

There are no data obtainable in this country upon which even a remote approximation could be made as to the total of the sums wagered in the course of the year upon turf events. That it is large may be safely assumed; but we should doubt much whether the French, in their comparatively recent fervor for betting upon horse races, have not largely exceeded the amounts wagered in this country.

The figures given by a Paris correspondent show that 10 per cent. levied on all sums staked in the Pari-Mutuel machines amounted for the last four months of last year to 2,026,836 francs, representing a total wagered of 101,342,950 francs or over \$4,050,000 in four months. This of course is altogether irrespective of the sums wagered at the clubs or with the large bookmakers, and represents only the small sums laid on the course with the smaller men of that class.—London Tit-Bits.

## Mice Destroy a Miser's Hoard.

Edward Kelly, an aged farmer living near Griffin's Corners, Delaware county, is known in the neighborhood where he resides as somewhat of a miser. He places no faith in banks or securities, except greenbacks. Some time ago he sold a tract of land for a large sum of money, which he added to his accumulated hoard, making in all nearly \$10,000. This week he had occasion to examine his treasure, which he kept secreted in an old bootbox, concealed among a quantity of newspapers. He was surprised to find that some mice had entirely destroyed his fortune in preparing for themselves winter quarters. Not a piece of money was left large enough for identification. The old man raved like a maniac when he discovered his loss.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## Tickled Almost to Death.

Tommy Pooler, about nineteen years old, one of the nervous sort known as "jumping Frenchmen," was forcibly held by a young negro and tickled so severely that he burst a blood vessel. Hemorrhage from the mouth and nose resulted, and this the physicians have been unable to stop. The priest from Waterville was sent for and arrived Monday night. Tuesday Pooler was very low and apparently near his end.—Dexter Cor. Eastern Argus.

## Not an Unusual Error.

Police Commissioner—Mr. McGobb, how did it happen that you let a raving lunatic go around terrorizing people on your beat for a whole afternoon?

Officer McGobb—Sure I thought he was some felly payin' a lecture bet.—Indianapolis Journal.

## A Lean Answer Turned Away Thurst.

This incident is told as happening a few days ago to the daughter of the late General Clinton B. Fisk, showing that she has that keen wit which her father possessed. Getting into a Twenty-third street car, and forgetting that they have now conductors, she absently handed a quarter to the man next to her, intending that he should pay the fare. The man, who was well dressed, drew himself up, and said stiffly and audibly, "Madam, I am not a conductor."

"Oh, excuse me; I thought you were a gentleman," was the quick reply, and the man left the car amid the smiles of the passengers.—New York Tribune.

## Reading Between the Lines.



A young man of ability, but not of much means, was talking about starting a newspaper in Houston, and was telling a friend about it.

"You can borrow fifty dollars and start a new paper," said the friend encouragingly.

"You darned fool!" replied the would be journalist, "if I could borrow fifty dollars what would I want to start a paper for? I want to start a paper so I can borrow the fifty dollars."—Texas Sittings.

## All Up.

Mrs. Claptrap—My dear Miss Palisade, I want to present Professor Panhandle. The professor has some very absorbing theories that he wishes to expound, and I am sure you will be only too delighted to listen.

Miss Palisade (the belle of a season, with rivals)—My dear Mrs. Claptrap, I am delighted to meet so charming a scholar as the professor, and I shall take him over and introduce him to your daughters at once.—Life.

## Danger.

A man recently went into a store in Chicago where there was a phonograph, which he set going by putting a nickel in the slot. When he put the rubber tubes to his ears he heard the "Star Spangled Banner" played by an orchestra, and with a startled cry, "Jewhittaker! an I left my team unbridled!" he rushed out to see that they did not get frightened by the music.—New York Tribune.

## In a Quandary.

Humorous Lecturer—Good gracious, what have you brought me here? I told you to fetch the manuscript for my lecture, which I left at home by mistake.

Messenger—Yes, sir; but the mist, after looking all over your writing table, couldn't find the papers, and so she thought she would send you the book out of which you copied it all yesterday.—Floh.

## He Would Pay.

At a negro prayer meeting not long ago a brother who had the reputation of being "mighty in pra'" got up and began to petition the Lord to "come down." "Come down, oh, Lord, come down," he vociferated, "Oh, Lord, come down. Bust a hole in de roof and come down." "Yes, Lord, do," broke in another brother, deeply stirred, "an' I'll pay for de shingles."—New York Recorder.

## Too Unreal.

"The play last night wasn't realistic enough for me."  
"What was the trouble?"  
"You know that chap who was killed in the third act?"  
"Yes."  
"Well, I saw him in the street this morning."—London Tit-Bits.

## A Steady Workman.

Honorable—I don't believe you ever did a stroke of work in your life.

Tramp—I was six years in one place, mum.

"Indeed! How did you happen to leave?"  
"I was pardoned out, mum."—New York Weekly.

## Figuratively Speaking.

Pretty Teacher—I shall be thankful when vacation comes, for lately my head has been so full of figures that there's no room for anything else.

Punleigh (gallantly)—Yet one would never speak of you as a figurehead.—Kate Field's Washington.

## Special Measure Required.

Housewife—It seems to me that your pint of milk is very small.

Milkman—My cows is the small kind, mum!—Exchange.

## Yearnings.

I've often thought I'd like to be a noble visionary,  
The keeper of a peanut stand,  
Or an apothecary.  
I'd like to be a chorist girl,  
Or haberdashery;  
And oh! far more, a reigning queen  
With diamonds in my hair.  
Also how have I burned within  
With mad, insane desire  
To be a new Zenobia  
And set the world on fire!  
But all in vain, I yearn and pine,  
The plain I've no vocation,  
My lot in life is but to be  
Contented with my station.  
I know I have an easy time,  
No struggle to make a verse on.  
But oh! it is a grief to think  
I'm nothing but a person.  
—Brooklyn Life.

## SAFE CRACKERS.

### Make a Good Hunt in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 31.—Two safes in different parts of the city were broken open by the same men last night, and altogether quite a quantity of property was stolen. In one safe the burglars found but \$5, but the other yielded \$205 in cash and about \$3000 worth of negotiable stock.

The first burglary was in the office of Kuehls, Schwarke & Co., where only \$5 was taken. The other was in the office of ex-Sheriff William McMann, a coal dealer, where about \$205 in coin and a large number of electric light bonds valued at about \$3000 were found. As both jobs were done in exactly the same manner, the police believe they were the work of the same men.

## CIGARETTES A CRIME.

### Alabama Passes a Law Against Smoking Them.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 31.—The house has passed a bill prohibiting the sale or giving away or otherwise disposing of cigarettes, cigarette tobacco and cigarette paper, in Alabama. It imposes a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50, and imprisonment or sentence to hard labor for not less than 30 days, for violation of its provisions. The bill also prohibits the smoking of cigarettes in any public place.

## The Doom of Dynamiters.

LOWELL, Mass., Jan. 31.—Thomas Callan of Lowell who was sentenced in London 5 years ago to 15 years imprisonment as an alleged dynamiter reached here this morning. He has been confined in Chatham and Portland prisons. He says the prison methods are depriving the alleged dynamiters of their reason. They are not allowed to speak, and solitary confinement is imposed even if the men are suspected of whispering.

Callan says Dr. Gallagher of Brooklyn, who is a fellow prisoner is insane, but the officers say he is shamming. Gallagher, according to Callan, is in the infirmary most of the time and can not last long. One of the other dynamiters, so Callan says, has become a driving idiot. Some times he breaks out in wild laughter, and for this is punished by solitary confinement in a dark, cold cell in chains from two to five days.

## Fire at Helena.

HELENA, Mont., Jan. 31.—Last night at 10 o'clock with the thermometer 48 degrees below zero, fire broke out in a row of one-story buildings on Main street near the biggest block in the city. Though the fire did not gain much headway, it took the firemen an hour to put it out, as it spread all around one of the buildings.

Despite the furious, cold and blinding snow that the wind was whirling through the air, the firemen stuck to their work and came through with only a few frozen hands and ears.

## Suicide at San Bernardino.

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., Jan. 31.—An unknown man committed suicide in a lodging house here last night by taking chloroform. Among his effects was found a Mexican lottery ticket on the back of which was written: "Give half of this to the poor of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, and buy a lot with the balance in which to bury me."

## Olympia Still the Same.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 31.—The 39th and 40th ballots show no change.

## Cheap Passenger Rates.

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—The policy of the Panama Railroad Company in putting on a line of steamships in opposition to the Pacific Mail has impelled the latter to reduce the passenger rate to Colon from \$90 to \$20, and the freight rate from \$9 to \$2 per ton.

The significance of this action will be grasped when it is considered that it is an eight days' journey to the Isthmus.

The commercial war gains additional significance from the alleged fact that the Panama Railroad Company advertised abroad for foreign steamers to carry freight from New York to the Isthmus.

## Rain in Santa Monica.

SANTA MONICA, Cal., Jan. 31.—Seven inches of rain fell for this storm and it is still raining very hard. Both railroads are washed out, cutting off all railroad communication with the outside world. This has been the heaviest storm for years.

Ex.: Whatever may or may not be attempted by the Fifty-third congress, there is little doubt in the public mind that it will not neglect to repeal the statutes concerning federal supervision of elections. Whether in the party platform or not, the force bill and the election methods it was designed to re-enforce and strengthen were not forgotten by the people when the memorable popular judgment of November 8 last was pronounced. The federal election laws have been condemned, and it only remains for congress to kill them expeditiously and bury them decently.