

Humorous.

There's no special style of engraving engagement rings. A spider's web with a fly in it is a very pretty device.

An old bachelor seeing the words, "Families supplied," in the window of the oyster saloon, went in and said he'd take a wife and two children—a boy and a girl.

The man who undertook to lick a thousand postage stamps in a thousand minutes gave out on his seven hundredth lap. He says he had rather undertake to lick the Postmaster General.

Never insult an acquaintance by harsh words when applied to for a favor. It is just as easy and even so much pleasanter to lie to him and tell him you haven't got it. He may know you are a liar, but he can't deny that you are a gentleman.—Hawkeye.

A man on Arbor Hill last evening aimed a gun at his little son, a beautiful creature with golden hair to his waist, and playfully threatened to shoot him. The gun turned out to be loaded. It will be placed in the State Library as the only weapon of the kind known to American gunnery.—Albany Journal.

A pedometer is a machine to accurately measure the distance a person walks in a given time. When a business man after supper Saturday evening told his wife he was "only going down to the office to square up the books," she slyly attached a pedometer to his leg, and when he returned she discovered that the office was fifteen miles from the house. P. S.—A night at billiards entails considerable pedestrianism.—Norristown Herald.

A friend sends a wicked story of a jovial soul who appeared at the gates of heaven and sought admission. St. Peter came out, looked at the applicant over, asked a few leading questions, and finally said, severely: "No, you can't get in. You're not fit." The traveler stepped back, looked the saintly doorkeeper steadily in the eye and crossed three times. The saint turned pale, slithered, fumbled for his key, and opened the door. "If you are going to be personal," he gasped, "you can enter, but don't do that to me again."—Boston Transcript.

Preparations for a Summer Campaign of Railroad Building in Eastern Oregon and Washington.

Speaking of the outlook and railroad prospect of Eastern Oregon and Washington, the Walla Walla Statesman says: Last Saturday a party of capitalists and railroad men arrived in this city from Portland. The party included Henry Villard, the President of the Oregon & California Steamship Company, and manager of the Oregon railroads, C. E. Brotherton, the attorney of the land department of the Oregon railroads, H. Thielson, the chief engineer, W. H. Starbuck, a New York capitalist, and Finley Anderson, private secretary for Mr. Villard. During their stay here they engaged in examining the country and making inquiries about its geography, products, etc. Mr. Thielson has gone to Fort Hall and will examine the general route for a railroad from that point to the Columbia river. On his return he will examine the Blue mountains for a pass which will bring the road near this city as possible. The rest of the party have returned to Portland. Mr. Villard assured us that he and his associates were going to build a railroad to the Columbia river from the Utah Northern road.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC. Last Sunday some thirty men, including the civil engineers, left here by train to commence the survey of the N. P. R. Co. They were outfitted in this city with mules, wagons, harness, provisions and camp equipage, at an expense of about \$3,000. This whole party boarded the steamer Northwest at Walla, for Priest Rapids, at which point the work is to be begun, and vigorously prosecuted each day. As near as we can learn the company intend to put the route between the mouth of Snake River and Pen d'Orielle Lake, a distance of 208 miles, under contract this season. Last week the object of commencing work at Priest Rapids and running both ways, is to determine the practicability of building a road across the Cascade Mountains to Palet Sound. Last Summer a feasible pass over these mountains was located, and it is the intention now to connect it with the Columbia river. There is no reason to doubt that it can be easily done. The party working east from Priest Rapids will make connection with the main line from the mouth of Snake river, on the shortest practicable route. The idea seems to be to build the branch road over the mountains by the most direct route. It would seem, however, to one not an engineer, that it would be cheaper to have only one bridge over the Columbia river. Col. Doane, the chief of the engineering parties on this coast, has gone to personally inspect the Snake river and Palouse countries. Upon his report will depend the location of the main line. Every indication leads to the conclusion that the N. P. R. Co. are in earnest about building this end of their railroad.

The Next International Fair.

New York has concluded to hold an International Fair in 1883. Its projectors have selected a site for the same, and the next thing that remains to be done, is to proceed with the erection of the necessary buildings. Col. J. E. Paston, who had a good deal to do with the Philadelphia Centennial, thinks the Fair should not be held until two years later, in order that time may be given to awaken a world wide interest in its success. He also suggests that it would be a stroke of economy for the projectors of the Fair to purchase the main building of the Centennial Exhibition, take it to pieces and have it transported to New York. This he believes could be done for \$100,000. The structure, which cost \$1,750,000, can be bought for \$250,000. It contains over 9,000,000 pounds of iron, and with fresh paint and new decorations, the edifice could be made to look well. As the time for the holding of the Fair has been fixed, with reference to the observance of an American centennial occasion, it is not likely to be altered; but there certainly would be a great saving of money by making the purchase as proposed. It is the intention to make the exposition of 1883 a much grander affair than the Centennial of 1876, and those who take a national pride in such events, will be expected to aid the enterprise to the extent of their ability.

The Neuralgic Belt.

At a recent meeting of the National Academy at Washington a somewhat interesting paper was read upon the relation of climate and magnetism, as shown in the case of Capt. Robert Catlin, well known in this city, and brother of our townsman, John Catlin. E. G. Catlin, who lost a leg in the late war, has been tortured every since the amputation by fierce pains in the lost limb. He came under Dr. Mitchell's care, who recognized in his patient a case of thorough scientific ability, and induced him to undertake the thorough registration of his own pain. The charts kept by Captain Catlin were handed through the audience, and resembled those made by a self-registering thermometer. They show that while the magnetic or electrical condition of the earth had almost nothing to do with the pain, yet that the rain belt shown on the weather map is always surrounded by a neuralgic belt of from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and sixty miles in width whose influence may be felt where the rain may not fall, but which is always prophetic of pain. So the old peasant superstition has a solid scientific basis. There seems no possibility of doubting the conclusions, for Capt. Catlin has not only been observing and recording for many years, but in widely differing localities, and no allowance need be made for possible local influences.

Mr. Billings has the Floor.

Inspirations always waits upon the bizz. I have seen men set down all day under a shade tree, with a hoe in their hand, close to the edge of a cornfield, waiting to be inspired, but the weeds in that cornfield didn't wait for my inspirations.

The man whom praise always makes humble is an ironhead.

If a man will tell me what he thinks of his neighbors, I can tell him what his neighbors think of him.

In youth our passions keep us bizz, in middle life our ambitions, in old age the ratiocination.

How many thousands there are who live out a whole life and have nothing to prove it by, only that they have had the mumps, the measles, and perhaps the chickenpox.

There is this difference between the man who has a strong opinion and the man who won't—one is an idiot, and the other a phool.

I suppose this world might be divided into phoiks that know how to live, phoiks that only sprout and vegetate, and phoiks that never pay their bills but are engaged to.

It would be absolutely cruel to banish all deceptions out of the world; the majority of mankind would be melancholy for a job.

RAISING HORSES TO ORDER.—The science of stock breeding is coming to be so well understood that those who make it a study and business may be said to be successfully breeding stock in order. For instance, the Shorthorn, the Jersey, the Hereford and Devon breeds of cattle, when of pure blood and fixed pedigree, transmit their characteristics so surely and exactly to their progeny, that the quality of such progeny can be determined upon beforehand with almost the same precision as that of an eclipse of the moon or sun can be foretold. So also with the thoroughbred merino sheep and the Berkshire swine. But above all other stock the thoroughbred horse transmits his qualities with certainty to his young. Horse breeding has come to be so much a fixed science with some men who understand its requirements or the laws that govern it, that they are willing to stake their money upon their judgment. It has long been a practice in England for men to put up stakes upon colts before they are foaled to be run for at two and three years of age. This practice is also coming into vogue in this country, and is, in fact getting to be the most fashionable and interesting mode of getting up trials of speed and bottom between the different families or strains of blooded horses. This practice may well be termed breeding horses to order.—Record Union.

LEFT TAILED DOGS.—An Englishman who has recently arrived at Philadelphia is shocked to see so many left-tailed dogs on the streets, and feels it his duty to direct your attention to the fact. "Your excellent American oysters," writes the editor of the Telegraph, "your roast beef, your superior shad, have, I fear, caused a very provoking attack of quack, which will prevent me from visiting the Benevolent Show of Dogs, to open on Monday next. If the dogs to be exhibited prove to be so better bred than the dogs I have noticed along your streets, the exhibition will not prove very creditable. At least ninety in every one hundred dogs I have noticed in this city curl their tail to the left, an evil disease which is now spreading, and which curls their tail to the right are never afflicted with hydrophobia; the fatal disease prevails only among dogs that curl their tail to the left. No gentleman in London or any city of the continent will own a dog or allow a dog to follow him that curls its tail to the left."—Phila. Times.

MISCEGENATION.—We hear that two families are now living on a farm near Shawa's ferry, Washington county, which they have rented for three years; the husbands being Chinese and the wives Americans. The women are sisters, their maiden name being Eliot. The one was married about three years ago in California and has a child about two years old; the other entered the connubial state about three weeks since. The latter on being asked why she consented to such an odious union, replied, "My sister married a Chinaman, and I'm no better than she is!" This remark evidently is, "What's the odds as long as you're happy."—Bee.

Senator Bayard is understood to hold the following views on the proposition to use diplomatic means to induce European nations to join a conference to regulate the silver difficulty; Congress is to be pressed to appropriate \$20,000, believing that the Northern and even Latin nations of Europe will suggest something and the President is to have the discretion of entering any European Conference that may be called or suggested during the absence of Congress. It is stated that no objection exists to this appropriation Jones of Nevada is understood to be its promoter.

A minister once told Wendell Phillips that if his business in life was to save the negroes, he ought to go South where they are, and do it. "That is worth thinking of," replied Phillips; "and what is your business in life?" "To save men from hell," replied the minister. "Then go there and attend to your business," replied Mr. Phillips.

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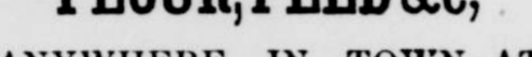
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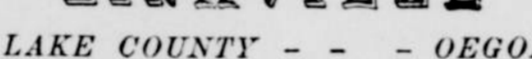
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[Vol. III No. 11.]

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