The London Elbow.

One of the first peculiarites which strikes an interloper in London streets, says a correspondent of the Portland (Me.) *Advertiser*, is the native elbow. If there is anything in nature harder than the average Britisher's elbow, it has yet to be discovered—and, once found, will be invaluable in the mechanic arts. Nearly all the people you meet walk with their elbows out like half-spreading wings—looking as though they were carrying an invisible bundle under each arm—and these aggressive angles are never taken in, no matter how great the crowd; the average Englishman does not appear to know that there is anybody but himself on the sidewalk. One gets jostled in New York or Paris or other large places—but one does not get punched and whacked and banged and altogether winded anywhere but in London. This attention is not specially for aliens; these people who plunge instead of walking, impinge each other in the same way, and go prepared for it, with rigid muscles, and, apparently, teeth firmly set. Beaten and elbowed quite out of breath yesterday by a long walk in the Strand, I retreated into a door-way to watch and see whether two English shoulders and elbows coming into sudden collision would really send out a shower of sparks, but they were invisible in the unusual sunshine. Occasionally a small man or a woman would receive a blow from a stalwart soldier or sturdy artisan which would send the victim staggering back a step or two, but with a gasp and a forced smile he or she would rally and plunge on again. I was much exercised for a poor baby which, carried on its mother's or nurse's arm, with its head projecting beyond her shoulder, seemed to receive a shock from every passer. "Rather a dangerous way to carry a baby in a bumping country," remarked a hurrying stranger, but neither the baby nor its bearer took note. The children probably get used to it, for by the time they are four or five years old they will oppose their small bigness sturdily against the passer-by and stand their ground like the rock of Gibraltar. I met a family of five of them last night standing right in the middle of the sidewalk, with their mother, who was talking with another woman. They quite blocked the way, and, seeing that they did not move, I gently laid my hand on one, a little creature of five or six years. Instead of stirring, he braced himself, dug his feet into the flags and refused to budge. Being in a hurry, I pushed a little harder, when he turned and gave me a sturdy blow amidships with his doubled and dirty little fist, and it was not until I took him firmly by the shoulders and stood him aside that I managed to get past, his mother, meanwhile, taking no sides in the matter, and apparently quite indifferent as to whether her infant or the stranger might carry the day—she only wanted to see fair play.

Youthful Congressmen.

According to the Cleveland *Leader's* Washington correspondent, many a man who has been elected to the House before he was thirty, has retired after a single term into well-merited obscurity. McPherson, clerk of the last Congress, came here nearly thirty years ago, scarcely over the age alluded to, for admission to the House. Twenty-five years later he returned to take the place of clerk. John Randolph, of Roanoke, was at the opening of his term one of the youngest men who ever sat in Congress. He was, so the story goes, not yet twenty-five, and the question was asked as to his age. "I refer the gentleman," was his reply, "to my constituents in Virginia," and on this reply he was allowed to take his seat. Henry Clay was only twenty-nine when he was sent to the United States Senate, and John C. Calhoun was the same age when he entered the House. Blaine became a Congressman at thirty-two, Conkling at thirty, John Sherman at thirty-one, Daniel Voorhees at thirty-two, Ben Butler at thirty-eight, Daniel Webster at thirty, and Tom Benton, coming first to Washington at the age of thirty-two, entered the United States Senate, where he remained almost an equal number of years, taking notes of all the debates and writing his ponderous "Thirty Years'" view, which nobody but himself has ever read.

Fruit Sirup.

A Frenchman writes to a London paper: I have received letters from members of various charitable societies in England requesting me to forward our recipe for making sirup. They all write that it would be such a boon to the British workmen could it be adopted in England. The recipe is of the simplest character, and could be carried out in any cottage home in the event of no enterprising person undertaking to manufacture it wholesale. I have much pleasure in giving it: Place a large vessel over a small furnace, and brick it round. Throw in the fruit, pears and apples mixed (unpeeled) about 200 pounds at a time, with about six or seven quarts of water; let this boil until it is reduced to the consistency of marmalade. This takes generally from six to eight hours, but would, of course, vary a little according to the quality of the fruit and the fierceness of the fire. When this is done put it in a coarse cloth, into a very large colander, and press it well, so that all the juice is thoroughly extracted, and then replace this juice on the fire to boil for another six or seven hours, until thickened and of dark brown color. One thousand pounds of fruit give about 150 pounds of sirup.

An Indianapolis man, who claims to know, says that an iron girder will lose its stiffness under a heat which would not ignite an oak beam.

One firm of envelope makers in Springfield, Mass., used during last year 1,200 tons of paper in making about 170,000,000 envelopes.

ROYAL ETIQUETTE.

Queen Victoria's "Drawing-Rooms" Presentation at Court.

Drawing-rooms are now held at Buckingham palace instead of, as formerly, at St. James; they commence at 3 o'clock, the doors of the palace being open at 2 o'clock. Those, however, who wish to be early, and to pass the queen, will not find 1 o'clock at all too early to leave home. Some start earlier, and remain quietly in their carriages in the string until their turn comes for admission. Those who are first received by her majesty are the diplomatic corps, who pass in strict order of precedence, and present any foreigners of their respective countries who may wish to attend the drawing-room, the ministers with their wives, and all those who have the privilege of the entree, who arrive at a different door from the general company, namely, one reached by the gate outside Buckingham gate, and have the two rooms next to the presence chamber appropriated to them. When they have passed the rest of the company is received.

A lady, on alighting at the palace, crosses the great hall and goes up a few steps to the cloak room, where she leaves her wraps and sees that her dress has not become disarranged during the long waiting in the carriage; she then goes up the grand staircase to the corridor, where she delivers one card to the page in waiting, and then passes on to one of the saloons. It will depend on whether she is late or early into which room she gains admission, the early arrivals filling the room next to those reserved for the entree, and the late ones finding themselves several rooms off, sometimes as far back as the ballroom. Two of the gentlemen-at-arms stand at each doorway, and as soon as each room is, in their judgment, sufficiently full, they close the gilt gate-like barriers. Each room is filled with chairs, so that all the ladies can sit down if they like, though many prefer standing. As fast as one room is emptied the barrier is opened, and the occupants of the next admitted, the barrier being again closed when it is full. After passing through the two rooms first used by those possessed of the entree, the lady arrives at the picture gallery, of which she has to cross the end, in a space formed by a row of gentlemen-at-arms on one side, and the looking-glass doors leading to the private apartments on the other. At these doors occasionally stand some of the junior members of the royal family. At the door of the picture gallery the lady's train is taken from her by two officials and carefully spread out, and she passes across the gallery to the presence chamber, where, at the door, she gives her card to the official, who holds out his hand for it.

On presentation, the right-hand glove must be removed before reaching the presence chamber; indeed, it is far better not to put it on at all, as then it is impossible to forget to take it off. When the lady arrives before her majesty, the lord chamberlain announces the name, the lady extends her right hand, palm downward, the queen places hers upon it, and the lady, bending in a low courtesy, touches it with her lips. It is not at all easy to do this gracefully, and it should be well practiced to avoid awkwardness. If the lady presented is a peeress or a peer's daughter, her majesty kisses her on the cheek. If the queen is not present, there is no kissing of hands on presentation. The lady then passes on, courtesying to each member of the royal family present. It is but seldom they all attend the same drawing-room, but if they do they stand in the following order: Princess of Wales, Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, Duchesses of Edinburg, Connaught and Albany, Prince of Wales, Dukes of Edinburgh, Connaught, Albany, Cambridge and Prince Christian. To courtesy to all the royalties present requires some dexterity, as very little time is allowed, and the train is taken up and thrown over the arm almost before the requisite number of reverences are completed. The mistress of the robes, ladies in waiting, maids of honor, etc., are ranged behind the royal family, and opposite are members of what is called the "general circle," such as the great officers of state, gold and silver sticks in waiting, members of the households, queen's aide-de-camps, etc. Every one, except these and the diplomatic corps, is expected to leave the presence chamber as soon as they have passed. They may then go away at once, or else remain in the picture gallery to see their friends and admire the dresses.—*Home Journal.*

Notable Temperatures of Water.

Thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit, the freezing point; 39 degrees F., the point of maximum density; 62 degrees F., the British standard temperature; 212 degrees F., the boiling point.

The weight of a cubic foot of cold water is about 1,000 ounces, or 62.5 pounds.

The weight of a cylindrical foot of water at 62 degrees is about forty-nine pounds.

The weight of one gallon of water is ten pounds, and the correct volume is 277.123 cubic inches.

One cubic foot of water contains six and one-fourth gallons.

The capacity of one gallon is equal to one square foot, about two inches deep; or to one circular foot about two and one-half inches deep.

One ton of water contains 224 gallons; 100 weight of water a fraction over eleven gallons.

A pint of water weighs one and a quarter pounds.

The rent-roll of the Astor estate in New York for 1884 is about $3,000,000.

HUMOROUS SKETCHES.

The Correct Report.

An amateur poet who is wasting his sweetness on the desert air of Minnesota, sends to a paper a poem beginning:

"I met her at our trysting place,
At edge of field beside the bars,
And gazing in her pure, sweet face,
I kissed her 'neath the cold, pale stars."

The fellow must be an idiot, or else he don't know good goods when he sees them. If the seraph who molds the poetic course of this paper had done that job, his report to headquarters would have read:

"I met her at our trysting place,
At edge of field where the daisy grows,
And gazing in her pure, sweet face,
I kissed her 'neath the cold pale, nose."
—*Bismarck Tribune.*

On Ice.

"Have you any champagne on ice!"

The question was asked by a well-dressed, sad-eyed man, as he strolled leisurely into the pharmaceutical establishment presided over by Dan Hill.

"We have," answered Daniel, in his most dignified manner.

"Mumm's extra dry?"

"Yes, sir."

"On ice?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, please give me a small piece of the ice."

Then Daniel commenced looking around for the lemon squeezer and the customer took a tooth-pick and walked thoughtfully away.—*Oil City Blizzard.*

More Than He Usually Paid.

The ordinary mortal, when he goes to obtain a license to be married, shows by his buoyont step and his general appearance of lightheartedness, that he feels as though a $10 bill was a small price to pay for a document permitting him to enter upon what he believes will be an era of unalloyed bliss; but that there are persons who are disposed to look at the practical side of the thing is shown by a ludicrous incident which occurred recently at the office of the city registrar of Cleveland. A man who is well known in city hall circles applied for a license and expressed an intention to get married, when the following colloquy ensued:

Applicant (looking at the license)—"How much will this be?"

Clerk—"The usual charge is fifty cents."

"Fifty cents? Fifty cents! Why, I've been getting them here right along, and I never paid more than twenty-three cents".—*Cleveland Herald.*"

Mary's Lamb in a New Light.

"Darling," said he, tenderly encircling her slender waist with his larboard arm, "can you tell me in what respect you resemble Mary, of little lamb fame?" "No, I cannot, dear Henry," she answered, blushing one of those western sunset blushes that betoken colder weather. "Because," said he, as he tenderly stroked the golden hair, "because you have a pet that loves you so. "And now, dear Henry, can you tell me why you are like Mary's lamb?" "No, dear, why am I?" "Because," said she, glancing nervously toward the door, "because you are sure to go. I hear papa coming down the stairs and you know." "Why am I like Mary's teacher?" thundered the old man, poking his head in the door and fondling a seven pound Indian club. "Because," answering himself, "after 11 o'clock is against the rule and I am going to turn you out." As the young man limped painfully away he was heard to mutter to himself: "Well, I differ from the lamb in one respect, for I'll never follow Mary any more!"—*Peck's Sun.*

Confronted With His Villainy.

When Mr. Popperman threw off his overcoat last evening his wife said:

"My dear, this is your birthday. Now, what kind of a present would you prefer?"

"Well, money."

"That's just the kind of a present I have for you," and Mrs. Popperman took from beneath her apron a plethoric bag and emptied upon the table a pile of jingling coins. "There's your birthday present."

The husband looked at the coins in amazement, and then said:

"Why, my dear, the money is no good. There is nothing here but lead quarters and dimes with holes in 'em. Here's a quarter with a hole in it, and the hole is bigger than the quarter. What rascal palmed that money on you? Oh! the scoundrels there are in the world!"

"Calm yourself, my dear," said Mrs. Popperman. "That money must all be good. That's what you've given me for pin money since we've been married."—*New York Journal.*

Why He Felt Mean.

If ever I go into a new locality again I will study up my geography better than I did this time, for my ignorance got me into a most uncomfortable position. As the boat neared Sanford I was standing with others on the deck, when a very pretty young lady came up to me, and, with a sweet smile on her face, looked up into mine with a pair of lovely eyes and asked: "Are you going to kiss me, sir!" If some one had offered to lend me $10 I could not have been more surprised, and, hardly knowing what to say, and in order to gain a little time, I gasped out: "Pardon, miss, what did you ask?" I felt that she knew I heard her, but she said sweetly, "Are you going to kiss me to-night?" There was no misunderstanding her this time. I heard her, and so did others, and I felt the blood rushing into my face, and I stammered out, "I would like to accommodate you, miss, I would truly but I have a wife and thirteen small children on board with me, and if my wife should see me kissing you—" "Kissing me, you hateful old thing! who asked you to kiss me?" "You did," I yelled; "you asked me twice!" "You old fool, I asked you if you were going to Kissime—Kissime City to-night; don't you know anything?" and off she went, and if ever anybody felt meaner than I did I would like to exchange photographs with him.—*Florida Letter.*

A Detroit Engagement.

He was on his way to a village in the interior to get married. The day and the hour had been set, and here he was, fifty miles away, and no show to get there unless he hired a locomotive. Acting upon the advice of the depot policeman the young man had an interview with one of the chief officials of the road, who offered the use of a locomotive for $40.

"That's a heap of money," replied the young man, as his enthusiasm began to ooze away.

"Yes," replied the indifferent official.

"I'll telegraph to her father and see what he says."

"Very well; let me know within an hour."

In about an hour the young man returned with a message in his hand, and he laid it before the official without a word. It read:

"Susan changed her mind yesterday and was married to Frank."

"Then you won't want the locomotive, of course?"

"Of course not. It was lucky I thought of telegraphing, for I'm just $40 ahead."

"And you don't feel bad over being left?"

"Well, I'd been engaged to Susan for thirteen years, and when I opened that dispatch my knees wobbled a bit, but I guess its all for the best. I'm also engaged to a Toledo milliner who does a business of $30,000 per year, and to a girl in Columbus who expects her aunt to leave her $20,000, and I'm in hopes of pulling through without going into a decline. Sorry to have troubled you, sir, and I'll bid you good-day."—*Free Press.*

Rain.

Various theories have been advanced to account for the formation of rain drops, but the most satisfactory explanation is that proposed by Professor Osborne Reynolds. The minute particles of which clouds are composed are moving downward in consequence of the attraction of gravity; but by reason of the resistance which the air offers to their descent, they are only moving very slowly. Since, however, the resistance offered to the passage of large drops is much smaller in proportion to their weight than that offered to small drops, it follows that the large drops will descend faster than the smaller ones, and will overtake them, coming into collision with any which are in the direct line of their descent. When two drops collide they will unite to form a larger drop, which will descend with increased velocity, sweeping up all smaller drops in its path, and thus increasing in size until it emerges from the cloud. Since many clouds are several miles in thickness, it is easy to see that a particle descending from the upper part of the cloud may become a raindrop of considerable size before it emerges from the cloud. In their passage from the cloud to the earth the larger raindrops will overtake the smaller ones in a precisely similar way. At the same time the size of the drops may be slightly increased by the condensation of water from the air through which they are falling, or may be slightly diminished by partial evaporation from the surfaces of the drops.

A falling raindrop descends with a velocity which increases until the acceleration is balanced by the resistance of the air, after which the drop descends with uniform velocity. It is, of course, well known that large clouds may exist without any rain falling from them. In some cases rain is actually formed, but evaporates and is again converted into vapor before it can reach the ground; in many cases the non-formation of rain is possibly due to the fact that under certain atmospheric or other conditions the particles forming the clouds do not unite when they collide. As an agent of geological change, rain is of the greatest importance. It plays a large part in the disintegration of rocks and the formation of soils, washes the smaller particles into streams and rivers, and is, in fact, one of the most important of the various denuding agents. Indeed, since rain is the ultimate source of all our brooks, rivers, etc., it may be said to be the principal agent of geological change on the earth's surface. The amount of the rainfall varies very considerably in different countries and in different parts of the same country, depending on geographical position, the conformation of the surface of the ground, the proximity of large lakes and the sea, etc. The heaviest annual fall of rain occurs in the zone of calms over the equatorial region of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and on the west coasts of the British isles, India, Norway, North and South America and New Zealand. In all these latter districts the west wind blows over a large tract of ocean and becomes heavily charged with moisture, which it deposits when forced upward by the action of the mountains on the coasts. The driest districts in the world are the desert regions of Africa and Asia. The amount of rain which falls in single showers is sometimes enormous, especially in the tropics. In the British Isles one of the heaviest falls on record is a fall of 5.36 inches in twenty-four hours in Monmouthshire, July 14, 1875. On October 25, 1836, at Gibraltar there was a fall of 30.11 inches.—*Cassel's Concise Cyclopædia.*

Henry Ward Beecher ridicules the Chicago papers. He says that if a hoop flies off the barrel it is recorded, but that half their so-called news could be compressed in your hand and there would be nothing there.

They All Knew How.

I took a large spider from his web under the basement of a mill, put him on a chip, and set him afloat on the quiet waters of the pond. He walked all about the sides of his bark, surveying the situation very carefully, and when the fact that he was really afloat and about a yard from shore seemed to be fully comprehended, he prospected for the nearest point of land. This point fairly settled upon, he immediately began to cast web for it. He threw it as far as possible in the air and with the wind. It soo reached the shore, and made fast to th spires of grass. Then he turned himsel about, and in true sailor fashion began to haul in hand over hand on his cable. Carefully he drew upon it until his bark began to move toward the shore. As it moved the faster he the faster drew upon it to keep the hawser taut and from touching the water. Very soon he reached the shore, and quickly leaping to terra firma he sped his way homeward. Thinking then he might be a special expert, and an exception in that line of boatmanship to the rest of his companions, I tried several of them, and they all came to shore in like manner.—*Portland Press.*

Khartoum.

The town of Khartoum, the capital of the Soudan, and chief trade emporium for the whole country, is built on a barren, stoneless, and wide plain, on the western bank of the Blue Nile, and about a mile above its junction with the White Nile. Its river frontage is about one and a half miles; its depth inward from the river about a mile. As its site is somewhat lower than the point reached by both rivers when in flood, a dyke fifteen to twenty feet in height has been made along the banks of the Blue Nile, another somewhat lower, immediately at the back of the town, to protect it against the overflow of the White Nile. When at their lowest point both streams are from 600 to 800 yards in width, and have several islands which are cultivated. The White Nile is unfordable, except in one or two places far up the river, but the Blue can be forded in many places above the town. When in flood the White Nile increases its width to a very great extent, but not so the Blue Nile, as its banks are much steeper.

A Cure for Drunkenness.

According to an exchange, "there is a prescription in use in England for the cure of drunkenness, by which thousands are said to have been enabled to recover themselves. The recipe came into notoriety by the efforts of Mr. John Vine Hall, commander of the Great Eastern steamship. He had fallen into such habitual drunkenness that his most earnest efforts to reclaim himself proved unavailing; at last he sought the advice of an eminent physician, which he followed faithfully for several months, and at the end of that time he had lost all desire for liquor—although he had been for many years held captive by a most debasing appetite. The recipe, which he afterwards published, and by which so many other drunkards have been assisted to reform, is as follows: Sulphate of iron, 20 grains; magnesia, 40 grains; peppermint, 44 drachms; spirits of nutmeg, 4 drachms. Dose, one tablespoonful twice a day."

Transmitted Likeness.

A remarkable illustration of the manner in which family likenesses are transmitted to the third generation was presented at a fancy dress ball, given recently at Linden gardens, Hyde park, London, by Mrs. Daniel O'Connell, the wife of the youngest and now only surviving son of the O'Connell. The grandson of "the Liberator" wore a wig and gown and bands, and underneath peeped the "cut-away" coat of a Q. C. The extraordinary similitude which this young gentleman bore to his grandfather showed how the human form, like history, repeats itself. Many persons present who remembered Mr. O'Connell described the likeness of the grandson to the great agitator as absolutely complete.

Street Railways.

There are now in the United States and Canada 415 working street railway companies. These companies employ about 35,000 men, and run 18,000 cars. More than 100,000 horses are in daily use, to feed which there are required annually 150,000 tons of hay, and 11,000,000 bushels of grain. These companies own and operate over 3,000 miles of track. The whole number of passengers carried annually is over 1,212,400,000. The amount of capital invested in these railways exceeds $150,000,000.

On Speaking Terms.

"Are Jones and Brown on speaking terms yet?" asked one citizen of another

"I guess they are," said the other; "I heard them call each other liars this morning, and saw their wives borrow wash-tubs and coffee of each other."

It is said that a lady seventy-two years of age, living near Snow Spring, Dooly county, Ga., is the best farmer in that neighborhood. She has been a widow for thirty-five years, and has managed her own business successfully, and a few days ago she had more cotton bales around her gin house than any farmer in that region. She employs her own laborers, and, if necessary, will put on her spectacles, go into the field, take the plow handles and show an inexperienced hand how to "lay off" a corn or cotton row.

The canned fruit product of California has largely increased with the last decade. The product of 1875 aggregated in value about $500,000. In 1878 it had reached $1,250,000; in 1880, $1,500,000, and in 1889 the product is set down as worth $2,600,000.