

NOTES AND NOTIONS.

Running Comments on Passing Events.

Sundry Ebullitions in Prose and Rhyme.

How the Domestic, Social and Literary World is Wagging.

Papa (up stairs). Maud, is that old man gone yet?

Maud. Whom do you mean?

Papa. Cholly Hicks.

Cholly Hicks. I'm not an old man.

Papa. You weren't when you arrived, I know—but time flies, Mr. Hicks, time flies.

Benevolent old lady. No, Mr. Smith, I shall not continue my subscription to your cricket ground any longer, for I find you allow it to be used in the winter for pigeon shooting.

Secretary to the Local Cricket Club. But madam, you can't be aware that we shoot at nothing but clay pigeons!

B. O. L. I don't care what the breed may be, it's equally cruel!

You're a goose! angrily exclaimed a New York man to his wife, who continually chided him about his extravagance. You do nothing but cackle, cackle, cackle, all the time.

Yes, dear, she sweetly replied; but you must not forget that the cackling of geese once saved the capital of Rome, and if cackling can save your capital, I'm going to keep it up, and she did.

Judge. How old are you, madam?

Witness. I've seen eighteen summers.

Judge. And eighteen winters—thirty-six, Mr. Clerk.

Briggs. Did you hear about Miss Grosgrain? She has married a dry goods clerk. They met, he woo'd and won her, and so they were married.

Griggs. Why, when did this all happen?

Briggs. While she was waiting for the change.

Where are the Digbys?

Oh, we couldn't ask them! They're not on our list any more.

What's the trouble?

Why didn't you hear? Helen Digby sent a sonnet to the Atlantic with 20 lines in it.

A nice old Kentish lady declares that she thinks it very strange that a little quicksilver in a glass tube can make such awful hot weather by just rising an inch or two.

Teacher: Try to remember this: Milton, the poet, was blind. Do you think you can remember it?

Yes, ma'am.

Now, what was Milton's great misfortune?

He was a poet.

I hear Bronson sang 'Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep' at the concert.

Yes.

Did he do it well?

He did indeed. It was so vivid that five people left the hall overcome with seasickness.

House-hunter at the Seaside; "I thought this was a furnished cottage. You certainly said 'furnished cottage' in your advertisement. But I don't see a stick of furniture in the house."

Estate Agent: "Of course not. I furnish the cottage and you furnish the furniture."

Office Boy: "Please, sir, can't I go to dinner now? It's almost an hour past my time, and I'm awfully hungry."

Employer: "Hungry? Well, I wonder if anybody ever saw such a greedy youngster. Here he has been lapping envelopes and postage-stamps all the forenoon, and yet he complains of being hungry."

She (falteringly): "There—there's one thing I must tell you before we get married, Cha—Charlie. My father has been in prison—prison!"

He (a journalist, and ravenous for "copy"): "I'm delighted to hear it, darling! If I can only get him to relate his experiences to me it'll go a long way towards buying a suite of furniture for our house."

"I wish I was a star," he said, smiling at his own poetic fancy.

"I would rather you were a comet," she said dreamily.

His heart beat tumultuously.

"And why?" he asked, tenderly, at the same time taking her unresisting little hands in his own. "And why?" he repeated, imperiously.

"Oh!" she said, with a brooding earnestness that fell freezingly upon his soul, "because then you would come round only once every fifteen hundred years!"

Can any of our readers render the assistance so courteously asked for in the following paragraph, which appeared lately in a provincial journal:—

"A young gentleman on the point of getting married is desirous of meeting a man of experience who will dissuade him from the step."

Mrs. De Mover: "Good gracious! This is the noisiest neighborhood I ever got into. Just hear those children screech!"

Maid: "They're your own children, mum."

Mrs. De Mover: "Are they? How the little darlings are enjoying themselves!"

Max O'Rell tells the story of a chairman he had at one of his lectures, who, on introducing him to his audience, spoke for an hour and a half. The lecturer then rose, and quietly proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman for his address, sat down again, and the meeting closed.

Teacher (to boy whose father keeps a small grocery shop): "Johnny, if your father has a hundred eggs and twenty of them are bad, how many of them does he lose?"

Johnny: "He doesn't lose any of them. He sells the bad ones to the restaurant-keeper to make egg omelets of."

A lady promised to give her maid five pounds as a marriage portion. The girl got married to a man of low stature, and her mistress, on seeing him, was surprised, and said:—

"Well, Mary, what a little husband you have got!"

"La!" exclaimed the girl, "what could you expect for five pounds?"

A man without a hair on his bald head came into the barber's shop and sat down on a chair. "Shave or hair cut, sir?" said the attendant.

"A shave, please," was the answer.

When the shave was finished and the bald-headed man left, the customer who was getting his hair cut in the next chair said to the barber, "Why did you ask that man if he would have his hair cut? Did you mean to insult him?"

"Oh, not at all, sir," was the answer. "You see, it's like this; a bald-headed man is very sensitive on that point. I treat this gentleman just as I do every customer who comes and sits down on the chair. He knows that he has no hair to be cut, and I know that he has no hair to be cut, and he knows that I know he has no hair to be cut. Nevertheless, he likes to be treated as if he is a head of hair, and he comes regularly."

A Tell-tale Table.

There is a good deal of amusement in the following table of figures. It will enable you to tell how old the young ladies are. Just hand this table to a young lady and request her to tell you in which column or columns her age is contained, add together the figures at the top of the columns in which her age is found, and you have the great secret. Thus, suppose her age to be seventeen, you will find that number in the first and fifth columns. Add the first figures of these columns and you have her age. Here is the magical table:—

1	2	4	8	16	32
3	3	5	9	17	33
5	6	6	10	18	34
7	7	7	11	19	35
9	10	12	12	20	36
11	11	13	13	21	37
13	14	14	14	22	38
15	15	15	15	23	39
17	18	20	24	24	40
19	18	21	25	25	41
21	22	22	26	26	42
23	23	23	27	27	43
25	26	28	28	28	44
27	27	29	29	29	45
29	30	30	30	30	46
31	31	31	31	31	47
33	34	36	40	48	48
35	35	37	41	49	49
37	38	38	42	50	50
39	39	39	43	51	51
41	42	44	44	52	52
43	43	45	45	53	53
45	46	46	46	54	54
47	47	47	47	55	55
49	50	52	56	56	56
51	51	53	57	57	57
53	54	54	58	58	58
55	55	55	59	59	59
57	58	60	60	60	60
59	59	61	61	61	61
61	62	62	62	62	62
63	63	63	63	63	63

AN ENGINEER'S REVENGE.

When Discharged he Turns a Locomotive Loose and Causes a Tragedy.

BERNE, Dec. 1. An engineer employed on the railway between Aargau, a canton of Switzerland and Waldstut, a town of Baden on the Rhine, committed some infraction of the rules, and the officials notified him of his dismissal from the service. When informed of this action the engineer became intensely infuriated and planned a terrible revenge.

Watching for a favorable opportunity to-day he entered the cab of a locomotive and opening the throttle of the engine as wide as possible he jumped from the cab and let the locomotive dash down the track at full speed just as a train loaded with passengers came rushing from the opposite direction on the same track. The runaway locomotive and the locomotive of the passenger train plunged into each other with awful force, both engines being entirely wrecked, and filling the track with a mass of debris. The engineer and fireman of the passenger train had no warning of the terrible fate in store for them, and were only aware of their great danger when too late to make any effort to save their lives. Both men were caught in the wrecks of the engines and were instantly killed.

The passengers were flung in all directions by the terrible shock of the collision. Three of them were fatally injured, and nearly all the others suffered from wounds of a more or less serious nature. The greatest excitement was caused by the accident, and for a time it was feared that the loss of life was much greater than was really the case.

Music as Medicine.

We recently published an article showing the effect of music on people of various temperaments. Now a correspondent in a medical journal gives an instance of how beneficial the use of music is when applied medicinally as a means of inducing sleep. Some five years ago he had the opportunity of trying the effect of dreamy music upon the Viscountess Combermere, a lady of great intellectual powers, who retained her full faculties at the age of eighty-six. About seven minutes were occupied by the music, and before his notes were heard the venerable lady had closed her eyes and was comfortably napping.

This story reminds us (says the 'Hospital') of another told by the late Dean Ramsay in his 'Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character.' A certain country laird was taken ill with some affection which produced marked sleeplessness. All sorts of remedies for the insomnia were tried, but tried in vain. The laird had a son who was what is called in Scotland 'daft,' that is, he was somewhat weak in the upper story. When the other laird's family were in a state bordering on distraction, the lad, whom nobody thought of taking into consultation, suddenly burst out with, 'Feyther aye sleeps i' the kirk.' The suggestion of getting a minister to preach to the sleepless man was acted upon, and with the best results. Hardly had the rev. divine got well into the second head of his discourse before the patient was sound asleep and snoring like the drone of a lagpipe. The peculiar monotony of the preacher's voice had acted as an irresistible soporific. It is a common experience that the monotonous reading of a book, or the measured cadences of quiet singing, is often of great value in the soothing of the nervous system. It might be well if nurses were taught to chant a little, and were to learn suitable music for the bedside. Young ladies, too, and even matrons, would be all the better if, in the course of their ordinary education, they had a little instruction in music of a sleep-inducing kind. There is manifestly a field for the musical composer also, as well as for the nurse and young lady.

The earning of English railways are over £750,000 a week.

It is calculated that the London theatres issue something like 50,000 free passes every year.

It is said that more than 5 per cent. of the total strength of the Army is constantly ineffective from sickness.

The street accidents in London last year numbered 5,728, of which 144 were fatal. There are 14,529 licensed conveyances in the metropolis.

A Fine Assortment of

WEDDING RINGS

Always on Hand.

A. F. Morrell,

Opp. Bridge.

ERIE MEDICAL CO.,

BUFFALO, N.Y.

DAVIS, STAPLES & CO.

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