

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Joaquin Miller is again in England, and a few hours after his reappearance in London received a cordial letter of welcome from Mr. Gladstone.

—Poe's sweetheart, the late Sarah Helen Whitman, leaves a volume of poems that will shortly be published, along with a revision of her essay, "Poe and His Critics."

—Mrs. Francis Hodgson Burnett has written a Lancashire story called "Haworth's," which is said by those who have seen the manuscript to be as good as "That Lass o' Lowrie's."

—The Cassells, the English publishers, have set apart for the year 1878 \$3,000 out of their profits, and propose to do the same every year, for a fund for workmen who remain long in their service.

—They say Bob Ingersoll made more money by lecturing last season than any other lecturer, beating Beecher and Joe Cook both. His fees as a lawyer are also said to be enormous. In the goods of this world Bob is getting rich.

—Bryant remarked to a young man some years since: "One of the first objects of a literary man should be to acquire an independence; his genius never does its best so long as it is a mere drudge of his necessities."

—"Mark Twain" has sent for his pastor, the Rev. Jos. H. Twichell, of Hartford, Conn., to go over to Europe and spend some weeks with him in a pedestrian tour through Germany and Switzerland. It is not to cost Mr. Twichell a cent.

—It is a striking proof of the world-wide interest felt in Mr. Stanley's discoveries that the English edition of "Through the Dark Continent" appears simultaneously in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Italy, Denmark, and other countries.

—Mr. Forbes, the war correspondent of the *Daily News*, is in a fair way of making a fortune. He is clearing \$500 a week by his lectures, and all the while is in receipt of a handsome salary as a kind of half-pay from the *Daily News*—no small one it may be imagined, when his present on returning from a successful campaign is \$5,500.

—Eight years ago there worked as "devil" in the office of the *Wytheville* (Va.) *Dispatch* a boy apparently 18 years of age. He was shoeless, penniless and trouserless when he entered. Now he is a Commissioner to the Paris Exposition, chief editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, and one of the best known humorists in the country. His name is S. W. Small, or "Old Si."

—By way of a monument to Thackeray, London is to get out a superb edition of his works. It will be limited to 1,000 copies. The undertaking attracts much attention in English literary circles, as nothing like it in cost or excellence of workmanship has ever been attempted. The paper used will be made expressly for this edition, real China paper will be used for the steel and copper plates, and the very best artists, engravers and printers will lend their aid in producing the finest set of books ever published in any country.

Science and Industry.

—The New Orleans mint will be used to coin money for South American countries.

—Farmers in South Georgia think they have discovered a bonanza in the cultivation of the Chinese sand-pear.

—Ice is regarded as a prime necessity at Bombay, and the supply is received from this country, being shipped chiefly from Boston.

—A big deposit of ice has been found in the Olympic Mountains, in Washington Territory, and it can be brought to Seattle at a cost of \$5 a ton. Ice now costs \$80 a ton there.

—A new enemy to the potato has appeared in West Virginia. It resembles a small grasshopper, and destroys whole patches in a single night by stinging the plant near the ground.

—Three of the largest tobacco factories in Key West have closed, and the Cubans employed in them are going back to Havana. Cause, a strike and interference of United States revenue officers.

—Parsnips contain almost twice as much dry matter or real food as turnips, and this of a superior quality. Carrots, again, contain about as much dry substance as mangolds, but are richer in sugar and of better feeding quality.

—Salt is very important for animals. Large pieces of rock salt put into the mangers and feeding-troughs are recommended. One-half the ash of animal blood consists of salt; without the latter the blood can not be in a natural or healthy state.

—The railroads of the United States have in use 3,500,000 car-wheels. Those on fast passenger trains are renewed every 10 months; but freight cars use the same wheels sometimes 10 years. The average life of a wheel is 50,000 miles, and at that rate it takes 700,000 a year at a cost, less the old wheels, of \$6,000,000.

—Strawberries contain 5.86 per cent. of their weight of glucose, or grape sugar, cherries 10, white currants 6.40, and hot-house grape 18.37; pineapples, on the other hand, contain 11.33 per

cent. of cane sugar, apricots, 6, and oranges 4. The sugar cane, when perfectly ripe, contains 18 per cent. of sugar; beet contains about 14 per cent. of sugar.

School and Church.

—Cornell graduates a class of 70 this year, of whom seven are women.

—The "Disciples," generally called Campbellites, have just opened their first chapel in Paris.

—Rev. Dr. J. H. Vincent, the great American Sunday-school man, who has just gone abroad, will hold a Sunday-school Congress at Rome. It will be the first ever held on the continent of Europe.

—A college has been organized at Hickman, with P. G. Halybarton as President. The faculty consists of seven chairs, and a first-class preparatory department has been established.

—The colored Baptists of the South are trying to help themselves to a better education. They are making efforts to establish a school to educate their preachers in Louisville, Ky., and a theological seminary in Alabama.

—The Methodists of Canada, who began their existence as a church in 1778, just 12 years after Philip Embury and Barbara Heck had introduced the faith into the United States, intend to celebrate their centennial in August or September.

—There is a report of a remarkable spread of Christianity in the district of Tinnerelly, British India, 16,000 persons having, in seven months, placed themselves "under instructions with a view to Baptism;" but the *Madras Mail* throws doubt on the report, saying that the first news of the affair came from London.

—The Roman Catholic system of "retreats" has gained an acceptance in the English State Church, according to *Harper's Weekly*, which would hardly be supposed by those who do not closely watch the course of events. Twenty-four or twenty-five are announced to take place by the end of November next. Some of them are for candidates for holy orders. It is estimated that four hundred clergymen of the Establishment will go into retreat during this season.

—A movement is on foot among the Methodist churches in the East to do away with the arbitrary rule which limits the time which a minister may remain in charge of one congregation to three years. Some of the strongest men in the church, it is said, favor the proposed change. It is not proposed to abolish the appointive system altogether and establish a settled ministry, but to invest bishops with discretionary power in the matter of changes in each church at least once in every three years.

Haps and Mishaps.

—Peter E. Rush, a farmer living one mile east of Elkhart, Ind., was kicked to death by a horse.

—A 5-year-old daughter of Reuben Reynolds of Stanford, Ky. fell into a kettle of boiling water, and was scalded dead.

—Robert Cummins died at Coskey Station, Ky., on the day set for his wedding, from an overdose of morphine, mistaken for quinine.

—At Waverly, O., James Funk, a painter, fell off a scaffolding, a distance of 30 feet, and was killed.

—At East Davenport, Iowa, Bartemus Hansel was assisting in moving a house, when the supports gave way, dropping the sill across his breast, and crushing him to death.

—Mattie Matthews, a beautiful young lady of 17, committed suicide near Denver, Col., by shooting herself with a navy pistol. She had been disgraced and ruined by a young man under promise of marriage.

—Mrs. Dr. Allyn, a highly esteemed lady of Cleveland, O., in a freak of insanity, caused by fever, saturated her clothing with kerosene, set fire to it, and then inhaled the flames. She died in a few minutes from her internal injuries, but she was not badly burned externally.

—A young man very respectably connected, named Robinson, residing with Capt. Jas. Morgan, in Union District, on the Kanawha River, West Va., committed suicide by taking arsenic. Cause, unrequited love. The young lady was very much prostrated over the sad affair, and fears were entertained for her life.

—The foreman in a Delaware County (N. Y.) tannery had been at work in the sweat pits, and become overheated and was perspiring profusely, and while in this condition he fell into one of the vats. The poison from the liquor entered his system through the pores of the skin, resulting in death in a few days.

—One of the most distressing accidents of the Fourth occurred at Baltimore, where Marcellus Keene, a 10-year-old boy, fell on a powder bottle he was carrying in his pocket, and large pieces of the glass penetrated his right thigh, severing the large blood vessels and causing death in 20 minutes.

Foreign Notes.

—One of the most attractive and popular features of the Paris Exhibition is the display of the superb Pullman palace and sleeping cars in the American section.

—A jeweler in the Paris Exhibition shows a necklace which purports to be a mixture of true pearls and false, and challenges any body to single out the real.

—Of all the buildings in the Park of the Trocadero, the Algerian Palace is said to be the most extensive and cost-

ly. The total space covered by it is about 2,532 square meters.

—Forty years ago it was feared that the Queen of England might be dethroned by the Orangemen in favor of her cousin, the ex-King of Hanover, who has just died.

—The Emperor of Brazil hasn't enough of travel yet. He is going to Paris for the Exhibition, and has engaged for July the rooms in the Grand Hotel now occupied by the Shah.

—The Parisian man never gives up his seat in the car to a woman. A correspondent thought one day he discovered an exception, as two men jumped up and offered their seats to two standing women. He was undeceived when one of the polite passengers remarked to the other: "Brown, do you remember that night at Wallack's?" They were Americans.

—The cemetery in Munich is a sight for the visitor, for in buildings erected for the purpose may be seen dead persons waiting the lapse of three days required by law before burial. None of the gloom of the grave surrounds these remains, but they are attired in everyday costumes and placed in careless or half-reclining attitudes, amid fresh flowers. To the hand of each is attached a wire leading to a spring bell, so that an alarm may be given in case of resuscitation.

**Poetical Odds and Ends.**

Little bits of lemon,  
Little chunks of ice,  
Little water and sugar  
Make a man feel nice. —*Boston Post.*

"Only a tress of woman's hair,"  
The boarder pensively did mutter,  
"And yet I think it hardly fair,  
To give it to us in our later." —*Stanford Advocate.*

Two little boys were nothing loth  
To eat two verdant peaches each,  
And now one tombstone covers both,  
Thou hast this season for thine own, O Peach! —*Yonkers Gazette.*

"Come wife," said Will, "I pray you devote  
Just half a minute to mend this coat,  
Which a nail has chanced to rend."  
"Tis 10 o'clock," said his drowsy mate.  
"I know," said Will, "it is rather late,  
But it's never too late to mend."  
When night serene and amorous  
With its lovely moonbeams glimmers,  
Over earth doth wing;  
As a general thing  
The tom-cats with rapture clamorous,  
And at that hour, fragrant, chaste and mute,  
We hear the fire fiend practicing on its flute. —*Wild Out.*

"Hail to the bat," the vampire said,  
As face to face the fœmen stood;  
Then the pitcher pater, and the catcher cut.  
And the batter but as he oughter should,  
Adown the slope were the fielder fold  
A liner, hot as a hornet wing,  
And at the bat the optics a bang.  
As bounteous as a hoghead's bung.  
—*Yonkers Gazette.*

A boy stood back on the gallery floor,  
At the naughty female-show,  
And cast his earnest glances o'er  
Bald headed sin below.  
"You too far back," he sadly said;  
Yet he dared not forward go,  
For he saw his aged father's head  
First in the foremost row. —*Philadelphia Mirror.*

"What's the difference?" said who,  
"Between the moon and you?"  
"I can not tell, my treasured one,"  
Said he with interest new.  
"The difference is this," said she,  
With satire of a Junius,  
"The moon bath silvery quarters, love,  
While you are impetuous." —*Yonkers Gazette.*

He sits on the stoop; 'tis a bright moonlight night,  
And a kiss from her sweet lips he begs;  
But his trousers are not of the style that is tight,  
And the cockroaches crawl up his legs.  
He pauses a moment then wildly he grasps  
Simultaneously both of his limbs;  
"I've got 'em," says he. "Oh, good gracious!" she gasps,  
"Don't tell me, dear George, you've the jims!" —*Pittsburg Leader.*

**Gossip About the Dead Queen.**

The superstitious recall that, as Mercedes entered the Church of the Atocha on her marriage-day the bearer of her train stumbled, a bad omen; also, that at the bull-fight next day a veteran torero, many years ago a great favorite at Madrid, opened the amusement by turning to the Royal box and exclaiming to the Queen, "May your Majesty live 100 years!" Next moment he was tossed by the bull. The Queen died at daybreak in the arms of her husband and in the presence of her parents, the Infanta Christine, and the Ministers. Cardinal Mareno administered the last rites to the dying woman, who preserved her clearness and serenity of mind. "Does your Majesty regret leaving this life?" he asked. "Yes," she replied, "I do, but it is for Alfonso and my parents' sakes." Alfonso telegraphed to his mother the death of his wife in these terms: "My beloved Mercedes is in Heaven. Pray for her;" an inconsistent but earnest dispatch. At the time of the wedding, five months before, the ex-Queen Isabella prayed, on dit, at the Church of St. Pierre de Chaillot that evil might follow the Montpensier family. The Pope sent King Alfonso an autograph letter of condolence, and Queen Victoria telegraphed him as follows: "Dear Brother, my heart bleeds for you. What an awful misfortune it has pleased God to send you! May He give you strength to bear this terrible loss." The Queen's remains rest temporarily beside those of the Bourbon Princes in the vaults of the Escorial. On the day of the funeral, throughout all Madrid, almost all the shops were partially closed. The people generally wore mourning, and business was entirely suspended. More than 50,000 persons visited the chapel where the remains lay.

—George Green, a well-to-do farmer, living about 12 miles southwest of Zanesville, O., went with his little daughter, 10 years of age, to pick cherries, a short distance from his house, when a storm came up. Suddenly a flash of lightning struck the tree, instantly killing his child, and so seriously injuring him as to render his recovery extremely doubtful.

—Caps in the style of that worn by Charlotte Corday are fashionable.

MARRIAGE IN JAPAN.

**Professional Match-Makers—Betrothals in Infancy—Other Peculiar Customs.**  
[From the Japanese Times.]

The lower order of the Japanese employ some married couple to make matches for their sons, and these agents are called nakodos or go-betweens. Betrothal sometimes takes place in the infancy or childhood of parties, but it is very often deferred till they are old enough to wish to have some voice in the matter themselves, which, however, is denied them if they have parents living. When, by reason of the death of his parents, a young man is left free to manage the matter in his own behalf, he chooses a pair of go-betweens from among the friends or acquaintances, and through them makes inquiries for a suitable helpmate, and when they report the discovery of one, he sends them to solicit her hand of her parents.

If the proposal suits her parents the bargain is made, and by their connivance a meeting is arranged to take place among the young people at some tea-house, unless they already know each other by sight, where the betrothed can only cast sly glances at each other, but are permitted to hold no conversation, as that in the present stage of affairs would be a breach of Japanese etiquette.

In arranging matters for the wedding, fixing the day for it, etc., other go-betweens are employed, whose office expires only when the two are made one. First, the young bridegroom sends the go-betweens with the presents to the bride elect. These may consist of a variety of things, varying according to the taste or ability of the bridegroom, or his parents, provided only that certain things are included in the number; as, for instance, some edible seaweed, and noshi, or strips of dried and powdered awabi. The preparation of the latter is made chiefly in the department of Ise. If noshi can not be obtained, a kind of dried fish will answer the purpose. But, whether the presents be few or many, the bridegroom must send a written list of the articles along with them, for which a specified form is furnished in the Japanese works on the subject.

These presents being received, and the wedding-day being fixed between the bride's parent's and the go-betweens, nothing remains to be done but to await the appointed time. Meanwhile the bride and her family are occupied in preparing the numerous presents to be made by them to the parents and relatives of the bridegroom on the night of the wedding.

In the evening of the day set for the nuptial ceremony, the bride, dressed throughout in white (the color of mourning in Japan), is escorted in the kango or norimon (palanquin) by her parents and invited relatives to the house of the bridegroom. At the present day she is met in the entrance of the house by certain females employed to receive her, called machi-iso-roo, who conduct her into a separate apartment where she takes a little rest. It should be stated that she left her father's house having her head covered with a wataboshi, a cap made of floss silk, which entirely conceals the head and face from view, and is not removed until she has become a wife. When a sufficient time has elapsed for the bride to refresh herself, both she and the bridegroom proceed separately to the best room, where the young man seats himself at one end of the tokonoma, a sort of open closet or recess in the wall opposite to the entrance, which is considered the most honorable place in the Japanese house. And the young lady takes her seat at the opposite end of the tokonoma. The go-betweens also sit down, the male by the bridegroom and the female by the bride. Two other attendants, male and female, usually young persons, each bearing a vessel with a long handle, used as a receptacle for sake, are likewise present to wait upon the bride and bridegroom and fill their cups. The long-handled flasks have a paper butterfly fastened to each; a large and small one represent a male and female butterfly. The attendants who bear them are therefore called by these names, and the idea expressed by the symbol is, that as butterflies always go in pairs, so the husband and wife should accompany each other through life with a like constancy.

Between the bride and groom is placed a tray bearing three lacquered cups, one upon another, the smallest at the top. The two butterflies pour a little sake from both their flasks into the uppermost cup, while the bridegroom holds it to be filled, grasping it with both hands. He then sips the wine three times in a very slow, formal manner, and passes the cup to the bride, who takes it in her hands and takes three similar sips under cover of her veil, when she hands the cup to the female butterfly, who sets it aside. The second cup and the third are filled and emptied in like manner, so that each party drinks nine times. Hence the ceremony is called *san-san-kudo*, and forms the most important part of the nuptial rites, for it makes the parties husband and wife. While this drinking is going on, one or two male singers are seated behind the screen in the same room, chanting songs of congratulation to the happy pair. They are now married, and the bride and groom proceed to another room, where they pay their respects to her parents by drinking sake together; nominally, but not really, going through the *san-san-kudo* again. After that they are conducted to another room, where the bride removes her veil and exchanges her white dress for one of bright and gay colors, and the groom puts on the *kami-shimo*, or Japanese full dress, distinguished by the wing-like shoulder pieces, and full trousers, and then again they drink to

each other three times three cups, in natural congratulation at the happy change that has come over them, as indicated by their change of dress.

This being done there follows a feast to all in the house, who assemble in one room, and regale themselves with the fare that is set before them; and, having kept up the festivities till about the dawn of day, the wedding-party breaks up. Three days after the bride usually pays a visit to her own parents, when another entertainment is made to which the relatives of the family are invited.

Henceforth the married woman is regarded as having been absorbed, as it were, into the family of her husband, and to have surrendered her relationship to her father's house. Her duty to her father-in-law and mother-in-law supersedes all the obligations of filial piety. The common people, in their matrimonial rites, endeavor to ape as far as possible their superiors, the daimios and other great people of the land.

**Things That I Wonder At.**

Why the boys who made the Fourth of July odorous and hideous with gunpowder from 1840 to 1856, inclusive, are speechless with indignation at the depraved and vicious tastes of the boys who want to enjoy the same kind of a celebration in 1878?

Why people always discuss European politics as though they understood them?

Why a man should always get mad if you frankly and for his own good tell him he is making an ass of himself?

Why it is so hard to find a man when you want to borrow money of him?

Why it is so hard to borrow the money after you have found him?

Why somebody doesn't come out and explain the Louisiana muddle?

Why a man always wishes he had chosen some other profession?

What Mrs. Jenks is talking about and what she means by it?

Why a man is always going to take a vacation "next summer?"

Why people should consider it disgraceful to be sent to Congress?

Why a man thinks every year that he won't be as big a fool this year as he was last?

And why he is, though, all the same?

Why the tramps don't ask for something to eat, if they are hungry?

Why a man never tries to beat down the price of a railroad ticket?

Why every body affects a profound knowledge of growing crops and crop prospects?

Why men always lie about the size of the fish they catch and the number of ducks they shoot?

What a girl ever sees in a great selfish, deceitful, hulking animal of a man to marry him for, any how?

Why so many foreigners should speak German or French, when it is so much easier to speak English?

Why it takes five grown people to take one sleeping infant to the circus to "see the animals?"

Why a man who doctors himself with patent medicines, three bottles for a dollar, always, in referring to his health, speaks of "his physicians" as though he were constantly attended by a retinue of 50 or 60 doctors?

Why it is wrong to kill the man who says he told you so?

Why really generous men are always so ready to admit that you were in the wrong?—*Hawkeye Burdette.*

**Traps for Georgia Fleas.**

Necessity is the mother of invention, and in those parts of our State afflicted with fleas, many novel and ingenious devices have been resorted to as a means of getting rid of the pest. We published a few days ago that a Cuthbert man had, with partial success, tried covering his limbs with varnish on retiring at night and had captured 43. Another paper now gives the experience of a gentleman of its town who placed a plate of molasses under a house where the animals loved to congregate, drove a little stake on each side, and then fastened a sheet of writing-paper in a vertical position over the middle of the plate. The fleas, true to their instinct to make for every thing white, began to jump against the paper and to slip down into the molasses, from which they were unable to extricate themselves. The scheme was a success. The fleas were thinned out. "Now," says the paper, "if it was some enterprising Yankee who had made this discovery, he would apply for a patent and make a fortune out of it."—*Savannah (Ga.) News.*

**The Great Geological Question.**

The question as to how far the variation of the eccentricity of the earth's orbit may have brought about the great changes of climate indicated by geological phenomena—more especially as regards the cause and date of glacial epochs—is still an absorbing theme of discussion among scientists. The position of some, in this discussion, is, that during the past three millions of years there have been three periods when the eccentricity attained a high importance—that is, the first of these began about 2,630,000 years ago, and terminated some 2,460,000 years ago; the second began about 980,000 years ago, and terminated some 720,000 years ago; and the third began some 240,000 years ago, and terminated about 80,000 years ago. It is considered that the first period was the glacial epoch, the second was that of the upper miocene period, while the third corresponded to the glacial epoch of the middle eocene period.

—The Bible has been printed in 30 different languages for the benefit of the aborigines of this country, and of Greenland, British America, and Mexico.