

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The cataract of Niagara recedes a yard a year.
Pins are first mentioned in the English statutes in 1483.
Bone shavings are used for case-hardening small articles of steel.
The number of air cells in the lungs of a grown man are 600,000,000.
The earliest account of a diving bell in Europe is at Nuremberg, 1664.
A hen will lay upward of 140 eggs per annum, and bear one or two broods.
The Emperor Justinian introduced into Europe the silk worm, from China.

At the beginning of the present century the English laws made 160 crimes punishable by death.
The zone of the camel is said to extend from Northern Africa for 900 miles to China. A camel's average load is 1,200 pounds.
St. Macarius, having one day killed a goat that stung him, lived six months in a swamp, exposed to the bite of every insect, as a penance.
The thermal properties of the baths at Carlsbad were first made known by the howling of one of Charles IV.'s hounds which had fallen in.
Franklin, who died in 1790, was grandson of a man born in the sixteenth century, in the reign of Elizabeth. Three generations, thus extending over two centuries.

When Mrs. Samuel Slater, of Pawtucket, R. I., was spinning some cotton into yarn about 100 years ago, she experimented to see if it couldn't be made into thread, and it was to this thought of hers that the world is indebted for cotton thread.
In the treeless steppes of Tartary and the pampas of South America the inhabitants make up for want of other fuel by burning the bones of cattle. It is generally considered that the bones of an ox will produce enough heat by which to cook its flesh.
The wild dogs of India run by nose, and, having made themselves acquainted with sambur or other deer in the valley or jebel of the jungle, they separate and lie in wait at the different passes from the ghat, crouching on the high ground above the paths taken by the deer. One or two of the pack then go round and rouse the sambur, which rushes up hill by one of the many paths. The dog which lies in waiting springs at his victim and fixes to his throat, and the others soon run into him.

The curious custom of preserving the tears shed at a funeral is still carried out in Persia as in oiden times. The tears are bottled in the following manner: As the mourners are sitting around and weeping the master of ceremonies presents each with a piece of cotton wool, with which he wipes off his tears. This cotton is afterward squeezed into a bottle, and the tears are preserved as a powerful and efficacious remedy for reviving a dying man after every other means have failed. It is also employed as a charm against evil influence.

The Champion Snake Story.
A writer in a Western paper tells how he was blasting with gunpowder some large and tough logs. From one of the logs thus split open crawled an enormous serpent, which was easily killed. The man who tells the story continues from this point as follows: "On stretching it out I found it to be thirty-one feet two inches in length, and the thickest part of its body measured twenty-nine inches in circumference. It was a different species of serpent from any I had ever seen before. Its tail was armed with a sharp-pointed and curved horn; its body was variegated with alternate brown and dirty yellow stripes, and on close examination I discovered that it had been totally blind, its eyes seemed to have turned into a reflectionless, hard, bone-like substance. This explained its undecided, hesitating movements when it first came from the log. A strange crease appeared about the neck just back of the head, which I found to be caused by a stout thong of leather, about which the flesh of the serpent had grown until it had sunk almost out of sight. Cutting this thong and removing it, I found attached to its under side a copper plate which had heretofore been hidden by the body of the snake, and on one side of it was scratched: "D. Boone, April 15, 1859." I split the log in two, and near the lower end of the hollow I found where there had once been an opening, but long years ago it had been closed with a plug made of oak wood, about and over which the maple had grown until it was almost concealed. The dead appearance of the small portion visible of the oak plug was all that called my attention to its existence. My theory of the matter is this: Daniel Boone, many years ago, on the date recorded on this piece of copper, caught the snake, then young and small, fastened the copper plate about its neck, and imprisoned it in the hollow of the tree by means of the oak plug, where his snakeship had remained until the day I had delivered him to free air and sunlight again."

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The glucose product of this country is said to be over 1,000,000 pounds a day.
The sense of touch in eyeless fishes is shown by experiment to be extraordinarily developed.
When the foot of the midge is in action it has the appearance of a horse's foot in miniature.
Paper belting is now being used in Japan, and is said to have been found stronger than leather belting.
The time necessary for the complete destruction of the human body is estimated, in France, at five years.

A German chemist, Dr. Schall, has established the useful fact that wood impregnated with paraffine is preserved from rot.
Abernethy used to say that "of the large quantity of food a man swallows, one-fourth supports him, and the rest he keeps at his risk."
Sir John Lubbock estimates that 2,000,000 animal species have existed on our globe, of which only about 25,000 are as yet on record. He places the number of recent species at 700,000.

A peculiar phenomenon occurred in August on a mountain of Rhenish Prussia. In the side of the Brennende Berg a pit of about a hundred square yards in area suddenly opened, emitting a great volume of flame and engulfing a house and its inmates. It is believed that the cause of the catastrophe was the ignition of gas rising from a petroleum vein in the depths of the mountain.
Switzerland, writes the Geneva correspondent of a London journal, has another lake. A large mass of rock and earth fell the other day from a mountain-side at Somrix, in the Grisons, blocked up the course of the Jobel, and converted the valley into a lake. The village of Surrhein, hard by, is in great danger. The numerous land-slides on a large and small scale in Switzerland during the past few years must have produced a good deal of scratching and grooving that will do for evidences of ice scratchings for those who want them.

An Eccentric Family.

Mentioning the name of Goelet calls to my mind one of the most curious and eccentric families that ever existed. Those readers who have ever walked up Broadway will be likely to remember a great brown stone residence which stands on that thoroughfare at the corner of Nineteenth street. It is placed back from the sidewalk, and is surrounded by an iron fence at least ten feet high. That old house has stood there a great many years. The windows are always closed, and the only sign of life about the place is to be found in the various animals and fowls which roam about the yard. A cow, sometimes a horse, and always various kinds of chickens and imported poultry may be seen there. The place covers three or four city lots, and must be very valuable. It is owned by the Goelet family. Whether any of them live there now or not I am not able to say. It would take a detective to find that out. But up to a couple of years ago the mansion was occupied by one of the former generations of Goelets. He was reputed to be enormously rich, yet he lived alone in that vast mansion at an expenditure which, I have been told, did not often exceed a dollar a day. The old man kept his money in the Chemical bank. He did all his business himself, collecting his rents and attending to his taxes and other matters in person. I have heard, I don't know how truly, that he had a son of whom he was early very fond. Once on a time he discovered that son, in whose hands he had placed the care of his vast estates, in the act of swelling his own income to the loss of his idolizing parent. After that old Goelet went into his shell, so to speak, and devoted himself to hoarding his wealth. He used to come out in the morning, winter and summer, walk down to the bank, make a check for a few dollars, buy his day's provisions and go back home. One bitter day, when the snow and rain were falling, he caught cold during his long walk, and within a few weeks he was dead. But the old house on Broadway is just the same in look now as it was during his life. Such is the meager story of one member of a very rich New York family.—*New York Letter.*

A Thrilling Scene.

Gus de Smith, who owes everybody, had a very narrow escape yesterday. He was standing on the track of the I. & G. N. R. R. and did not notice the approach of a train until escape seemed impossible. The crowd shuddered and averted their heads. In vain did the engineer whistle down brakes and reverse his engine. A moment more and Gus de Smith would have been crushed out of all semblance of humanity, when Gilbooly, with rare presence of mind, called out.
"Gus, there's your washwoman!"
With one bound Gus cleared the track and was in safety.—*Texas Siftings.*

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

Treatment of Diabetes.
The following appeared originally in the *New York Journal of Commerce*:
NEW YORK, April 20, 1880.
Editor of the Journal of Commerce:
A gentleman in the South writes me his wife having suffered for the past two years with diabetes, and having had various doctors without success, desires to procure a recipe he says was published in one of the New York daily papers by the proprietor of the Windsor hotel, who was cured in Paris, France. If you know of this recipe, will you kindly publish it?
H. M.

For the benefit of the good lady at the South, we reply that the most excellent gentleman, since deceased, who published the remedy, did so from motives of pure benevolence. It was not a "recipe," but a bill of fare, the only cure for diabetes being a prompt and thorough change of diet. All starchy food must be wholly avoided. Oysters and clams may be eaten raw or cooked, without flour. All soups in which there is no flour, ricé, vermicelli, or any of the prohibited vegetables. Fish of all kinds and meats of all kinds except liver. Beef and mutton are best, but tripe, ham, tongue, bacon and sausages are safe for those who like them. Poultry and game of all kinds, but no sweet jellies or sauces with them. Salads, including lettuce, cucumbers, water cresses and cabbage. Celery, asparagus and tomatoes are rather to be avoided.
Potatoes, beats, carrots, turnips, parsnips, peas, beans and rice are absolutely prohibited and must in no case be touched.
Cauliflower, spinach, cabbage and string beans are recommended. Sour apples, cut in quarters, dipped in beaten eggs, rolled in cooked gluten, and fried in very hot fat, make a good substitute for potatoes.

All kinds of tart fruit, especially peaches and strawberries with cream, but no sugar, may be freely eaten.
Milk in moderation, cream, butter, buttermilk, and all kinds of fresh cheese, especially Neuchatel, are to be eaten.
Positively no sweet cake, no bread from ordinary flour, and nothing that contains sugar or starch. The gluten flour from which starch is wholly excluded may be purchased for twenty-five cents a pound, and from it bread, rolls, pancakes, fritters, mushes and puddings—without sugar or molasses—may be made and freely eaten. No pastry should be touched unless made from the gluten flour.
Nuts are allowed, and eggs in any quantity and shape are highly recommended.
Coffee and cocoa with cream—glycerine if liked, but no sugar—may be drunk in moderation. Tea is not as desirable. No spirits or malt liquor, nor sweet wines.

Eat slowly, drink chiefly at the end of the meal, and not much between meals; take cold or tepid baths in the morning, and exercise afterward, and stick to the diet the year round.
We know a lady who was suffering from diabetes, with an intolerable thirst, night and day, that nothing would alleviate. She had an interview, over a year since, with C. C. Waite, of the Windsor hotel, who himself adopted this regimen after consulting the best physicians in Europe, and she followed his example. Her disease was at once arrested, her thirst wholly relieved, and she enjoys very comfortable health, which fully pays her for the self denial at the table.

Leeches and Shooting Fish.
Leeches are among the curious pests which swarm in the moist places of a Malay jungle. Directly the earth trembles with a man's step, the leeches stretch themselves out in savage thirst. By some means they manage to make a lodgment on his body. He may not feel them at first, but when at his journey's end he strips for a bath, he finds a score or more of the little blood-suckers fastened to his legs and gorged with their sanguinary dinner.
He puzzles his head in vain to discover how they managed to get up his trousers-legs. But on resuming his journey, he ties his trousers tightly round the ankle, places them in his boots, which he anoints with lime-juice, an abomination to the little pests. Only in this way may they be kept off the person.

Another curious specimen of tropical life, though not a pest, which the traveler sees, is the little shooting fish. It is an expert marksman, and kills his game by a water-shot.
An English gentleman, who kept one in a basin, reports that it would swim round and round, watching for a fly or ant to appear on the edge of the vessel. As soon as one was in sight, the fish, poisoning itself, would shoot out a drop of water with such dexterity as to cause the animal to drop into the basin, where it was speedily swallowed. He also says that when three or four of these "shooters" are confined in a basin, they will fire in turn, with singular regularity.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Ambition is the evil shadow of aspiration.
It takes a bold man to roll his own idea into the world.
The history of your fortunes is first written in your life.
Never present a gift, saying that it is of no use to yourself.
Better bend the neck promptly than to bruise the forehead.
No man is more miserable than he that hath no adversity.
Act well at the moment, and you have performed a good action to all eternity.
When respiration ceases, our education is finished, and not a moment sooner.
Most of the shadows that cross our path through life, are crossed by standing in our own light.
Self-denial is the most exalted pleasure, and the conquest of evil habits the most glorious triumph.

The fortunate man is he who, born poor, of nobody, works gradually up to wealth and consideration; and, having got them, dies before he finds they are not worth so much trouble.
No man can go into bad company without suffering for it. The homely old proverb has it very tersely: "A man can't bite the bottom out of a frying pan without smutting his nose."
Every increase of knowledge may possibly render depravity more depraved, as well as it may increase the strength of virtue. It is in itself only power, and its value depends on its application.
Let a man take time enough for the most trivial deeds, though it be but the paring of his nails. The buds swell imperceptibly without hurry or confusion; as if the short spring days were an eternity.

The appreciative eye which discovers real merit, and rewards it by increasing trust, which discerns unfaithfulness or slackness, and visits it with just rebuke, is a potent influence to produce good and true work.

Battle With a Rat.

A few nights ago a Hartford man heard a rat in his sleeping-room, and on striking a light found that his ratship had evidently lost his way, for he was running wildly about seeking a place to escape. The gentleman opened a door to get a broom or some other weapon with which to dispatch him, and the frightened rat taking advantage of the opening scampered across the room over the man's bare feet and out of the door before it could be closed. The rat ran down the back stairs and into the kitchen, followed by the man clad only in his night robe, with a kerosene lamp in one hand and a broom in the other. Before beginning the fight in earnest the gentleman let in his young dog, thinking this would be a good time to initiate the animal into the mystery of rat-killing. The dog got his eye upon the rat—a large old fellow—and skulked off into one corner and lay down. The gentleman, seeing his "purp" was not to be depended upon, "went for" the rat with his broom. He brought the weapon down with a vengeance, but the rat wasn't there. After two or three mis-strikes the man's "dander riz," and the battle was vigorously waged. The rat circled round and round the room, followed by his human foe with high-lifted lamp and swinging broom. This animated scene also frightened the dog, and he went round and round the room with master and rat, adding to the uproar. The rat was so desperately scared he at last, in sheer desperation, sprang toward the man, ran up his legs and half way up his body before he was dislodged. This sudden onslaught caused the gentleman to retire for a few minutes, and when he returned he was in full dress, with rubber boots on and breeches legs tucked in at the top. No more rats on uncovered legs in his'. Now he was ready for the fray again. But where was the rat? He was nowhere to be seen. The gentleman looked in every nook and corner for him, but he was not to be found. The dog still occupied his corner, and was trembling as though badly frightened. His master spoke kindly to him, and the animal came toward him, when, lo! the rat was exposed to view. In his fright he had taken refuge under the dog. The gentleman once more went for the rat, and the scene was repeated, the rat again running to the dog for safety. He was dislodged from this retreat a second time, and once more when hard pressed he turned upon his two-legged adversary. But before the rat could clamber up his person a blow from the broom stunned him and a boot-heel finished the fight. The skirmish lasted about half an hour, no rat ever before making a more desperate struggle for his life. But the odds were "agin" him from the start, and once more victory must be credited to the enemy of the rat race.

The grand old book of God still stands, and this old earth, the mere its leaves are turned over and pondered, the more it will sustain and illustrate the sacred word.—*Professor Dana.*

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Over \$20,000,000 is now lying in the United States treasury waiting for the holders of past due and called bonds to ask for it. Of this amount about \$10,000,000 is for matured bonds, on which interest ceased at various dates before January 1, 1837, or July 1, 1881. The other \$10,000,000 is for called bonds on which interest will cease October 21, but which, with interest to October 21, will be paid now on presentation.

During the past year the progress of discovery at Pompeii has been rapid. Several very important houses have been opened for the first time since their memorable closing up in the early years of imperial Rome. One of them is built and furnished on an entirely original plan. Some of the statues found are of bronze, and are said to be of exquisite workmanship. Furniture discovered is also of high excellence.

The first official Sunday-school census in the United States is now being taken by the government. It is under the charge of Mr. John D. Wattles, of Philadelphia. Circulars containing a number of questions are sent to every superintendent. These questions cover the number of teachers and children, the ages of the scholars, the number, value and character of books in libraries, the property owned, the money collected, and the increase in attendance since 1870. It is thought that five or six more months will be required to complete the work.

Some interesting statistics of mortality among railway travelers appear in French journals. With commendable candor, France is given the first, and of course least enviable, place on the list, her railways killing annually one in every 2,000,000 passengers, and wounding one in every half million. English railways kill one in every 5,250,000, but surpass those of France in minor casualties, wounding one in every third of a million. Belgian railways kill and wound one in every 9,000,000 and 2,000,000 respectively, while Prussia only kills one in every 21,500,000, and wounds one in every 4,000,000. Roundly speaking, French railways kill five times as many as English, English not quite twice as many as Belgian, and Belgian nearer thrice than twice as many as Prussian, which are much the least fatal of the four.

Who would suppose that in the State of New York 757 persons could have been found with sufficient faith to file claims for 597 veins said to contain gold and silver? Yet such is the fact as shown by the records in the office of the secretary of state in Albany. The disparity between the number of claimants and the number of veins claimed by them is explained by the fact that in many cases men who own the lands have taken out claims to protect themselves and their farms from the claims of others. Although the law declares that locators before they can work their mines shall procure from the owners of the lands a written permission to do so, it also provides that if this permission be refused the miners may procure from the supreme court an order permitting them to enter upon and break up the lands in question. In order, therefore, to avoid tedious litigation and annoying suits, the farmers have in many cases made things secure by filing claims themselves.

Prosecutions for "insulting the majesty" of Emperor William has been so frequent in Germany as to have given rise to great abuses. It has been found so easy to accuse an enemy of having in private conversation used some disrespectful phrase concerning the emperor, that such charges have repeatedly been made without any foundation whatever, and in a number of flagrant cases the perjury of the complaining witnesses has been proved so clearly that they have been convicted of it in the courts, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. One of the latest cases of this kind has been that of an artisan of Pforzheim, named Theodore Schneider, who accused an officer in the army of "majesty insulting." Investigation showed, however, that the accusation was untrue, and that, instead, it was Schneider himself who had used the unlawful language. When this was established a guard was sent to arrest the man; but he forestalled it by blowing out his brains.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of a Paris paper reports that a man, whose name and purpose are unknown, was put to death a short time ago by an infuriated mob for trying to approach the czar's carriage. According to this story, the czar, who was staying at Peterhoff, drove to Strelna to attend a state dinner given by the Grand Duchess Constantine. The emperor returned at 9:15 in an open carriage drawn by three horses, and the whole length of the road from Strelna to Peterhoff was brilliantly lighted with electric lamps and "Bengal fires." Both sides of the road were lined with soldiers, and large crowds had collected to see the czar pass and to cheer him. Just as the

carriage was nearing the palace gates, however, a man broke through the ranks of guards and ran toward the carriage. He was pushed back by the officer, and the mob threw him to the ground and literally hacked him to pieces with knives. By the time the police could interfere, the man's body was mangled past recognition. There was nothing to show that his intentions were murderous, and it is quite possible that he only intended to throw a petition into the imperial carriage. The czar was not informed of the matter until the next day, and the French correspondent says that the Russian papers were forbidden to report it.

Our country has buried eighteen Presidents, whose graves are scattered, and yet nine States include the entire number. New Hampshire has the grave of Pierce, and Massachusetts holds the two Adams, father and son. New York contains Van Buren and Fillmore, while Pennsylvania only has Buchanan. Kentucky can boast the grave of Taylor, while Illinois is honored by that of Lincoln. Ohio has two—Harrison and Garfield—both cut off soon after the opening of their official career. Tennessee has three, Johnson, Polk and Jackson, while Virginia, the "mother of Presidents," has taken five to her bosom in final rest—their names being Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Tyler. Looking back on the past, what a long interval occurred between the death of Washington and that of his successors—nearly twenty-seven years—but then it brought the death of two in one day. The largest number of ex-Presidents alive occurred when John Q. Adams began his administration. At that time old John Adams, with Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, were not only living, but were in full possession of all their faculties. The smallest number of ex-Presidents is found during Hayes' administration, when the number was reduced to one—General Grant.

An international exposition in the field of public hygiene and life-saving is arranged to take place in Berlin next year, to continue from June 1 to October 1. It will cover exhibits relating to soil and air, streets, roads and public parks; sewage and drainage, public water supplies and illumination, food supplies in large cities, public washing and laundry establishments, free baths, school buildings, dwellings, tenements of the poor, factories and other buildings in which large numbers of persons labor, inns, restaurants and coffee-houses; chemical, powder and other manufacturing establishments of a similar character, rural dwellings for the poor, country places for residence, nutritions, travel by railway, steamboat, electricity, and with horses; clothing, contagious diseases, institutions for the sick and disabled, funerals, cemeteries and morgues, and veterinary medicine and surgery. The department of life-saving will embrace exhibits of an equally varied and comprehensive character, including fire escapes and apparatus for extinguishing fires and rescuing from burning buildings; protection against lightning, floods, explosions, mining and navigation disasters; machine, mill and steam engine accidents; temporary expedients in the resuscitation and restoration of persons injured by drowning or other disaster, and of the sick and wounded in war, and ambulances, hospitals, barracks and hospital ships.

A Hair Market.

A Paris letter states that a hair market has recently been held at Bellinieres, Allier county, which was attended by women from sweet sixteen to venerable sixty. There were four hair buyers. Each had his booth, whose front was filled with cheap, gaudy, calico cloths, worth at the very outside twenty cents a yard. In the booth were two men, both armed, one with a pair of scissors, the other with a yardstick. The former would ask in an arrogant way, as if he did not want hair and was doing a very great favor if he condescended to touch peasants' hair: "What do you want in exchange for that?" "Fifteen yards?" "If I give you four, eight, thirteen (this figure was rarely exceeded), you may think yourself very lucky!" The offer accepted, he cuts the hair, and the other man measures the agreed number of yards. Sometimes the "merchandise" is refused as being worthless, the head is too old. It takes about five years for a decent fleece of hair to grow.

Indian Wooing.

A stalwart Indian appeared the other day at Aylmer, Quebec, with a dusky companion by his side whom he wished to wed. Both parties seemed to be rejoicing at the prospect as they repaired to the church, but suddenly the maiden changed her mind and positively refused to become his bride. Big Indian told her to go home and bring him back all the presents he had made her, and while she was absent he secured another woman, gave her the costume intended for the one that had discarded him and married her. Only two hours were lost by the entire transaction.—*Toronto Globe.*