# Wit and Humor.

**A BARGAIN BY ARITHMETICAL PROGRESSION.**

While engaged in the tobacco and cigar business, I used to have for a customer in cheap cigars one of those knowing fellows whose knowledge serves better to bore his victims than advance science. You could not make him believe that—oh, no! Tell him there were regalia cigars that cost forty dollars per thousand!—it might do to stuff down the throats of those who knew no better; he was none of them. And so it was with everything; he always knew best. It always appeared to be his delight to draw me into some controversy, no matter what the subject, in order to hear himself draw forth. I tried every way I could think of to circumvent him, and at length I did succeed in laying him out as flat as a flounder.

It was Saturday afternoon, he came in, made his purchase, and seated himself, to deal out his usual portion; but I was awake for him.

Captain, said I, I have made up my mind to go to California, and if you wish to go into a speculation, now is your time.

As how? said he.

Why, you see those fifteen boxes of cigars well, there are two hundred and fifty in each box, and I will let you have the whole fifteen at a low rate, providing you take them all.

Very well, said my friend, let us hear the conditions.

You give me one cent for the first box, two cents for the second, four cents for the third, and so on, doubling on every box.

Done, said he; fetch on your cigars. Suppose you think I have not money enough—eh?

Not at all: so let us proceed. Here is your first box.

He drew from his pocket a leathern purse, and out of it he drew a handful of coin.

And here is the cent, said he, depositing a green, discolored copper upon the counter.

Here is your second box.

Here is your two cents.

Very well; here is your third box.

And here is your four cents, said he chuckling.

Here is your fourth box.

Exactly. And here is your EIGHT cents! Ha! ha! ha; old fellow—go on.

Here is your fifth box, said I, handing down another.

And here is your SIXTEEN cents.

Here is your sixth box.

And—ha! ha! ha!—here is your THIRTY-TWO cents.

Here is your seventh box.

And here—ha! ha! the joke is getting too rich—here is your SIXTY-FOUR cents, and half your cigars are gone.

Here is your eighth box, said I, assuming a cool indifference that perfectly surprised the fellow.

And here is your dollar and twenty-eight cents.

Here is your ninth box.

Here is your—let me see—ah! two dollars and fifty-six cents.

Here is your tenth box.

Here he drew his wallet thoughtfully, and on the slate made a small calculation.

And here is your five dollars and twelve cents.

Here is your eleventh box.

And here is your—twice five is ten, twice twelve twenty-four—ten dollars and twenty-four cents.

At this stage of the game he had got quite docile, and I continued—

Here is your twelfth box; hand over twenty dollars and forty-eight cents.

Here the globules of perspiration, large as marrow-fat peas, stood out in bold relief on his face, but at length he doled out the sum.

Here is your thirteenth box; pile out forty dollars and ninety-six cents.

If I do, I shall, but I will not. With that he left, and I have been unable to get near him since.

SPECULATORS AND CAPITALISTS.—This hit will fit other latitudes than that of Paris—a "good thing" of a Parisian *gamin*, (urchin, loafer boy.) It is lively, energetic, characteristic and effective:

Two gentlemen were chatting on the Boulevard. One was a great speculator, developing the plan of a magnificent project, the other a dazzled capitalist, ready to snap at the bait. He hesitated a little; but was not yielding, merely making a few objections for conscience sake.

Near these two passed a couple of youngsters, of ten or twelve years. They were looking into a tobacco shop close by, and one cries out to the other:

"By the piper! I'd like to smoke a sou's worth of tobacco."

"Well," said the other, "buy a sou's worth."

"Ah! as luck will have it, I haven't a sou."

"Hold on, I've got two sous."

"That's the ticket, just the thing—one for the pipe, and one for the tobacco."

"Oh, yes, but what am I to do?"

"You? Oh, you shall be a stockholder; you can spit!"

It was a flash of light. The Capitalist thrust his hands into his pockets and fled.—The speculator cast a furious look at the two urchins, and turned down the street.

DICTIONARY.—We find the following news definitions of several words in our language not to be found in Webster's Dictionary:

*Hard Times*—Sitting on an a cold grind stone and reading the President's message.

*Love*—A little word within itself intimately connected with shovel and tongs.

*Progress of Time*—A peddler going through the land with wooden clocks.

*Poetry*—A bottle of ink sprinkled over a sheet of foolscap.

*Patriot*—A man who has neither property nor reputation to lose.

*Honesty*—Obsolete; a term formerly used in the case of a man who paid for his newspapers and the coat on his back.

*Independence*—Owing fifty thousand dollars which you never intend to pay.

*Lovely Women*—An article manufactured by milliners and dress makers:

"Who wants but little on her head,
But much below to make it spread."

At a trial last week, a sexton, who had taken part at a marriage, was one of the witnesses. "Well," said the counsel, "I thought your duty was to bury people, and not to marry them." "Certainly," said the sexton, "but we must first have a population before we can bury them."

"This is GEORGE THE FOURTH," said an exhibitor of wax work, pointing to a slim figure. "I thought he was a very stout man." "Very likely, but if you'd been without victuals half so long as he has, you'd have been twice as thin."

"DOCTOR," said a hypochondriac to his physician, "I can neither sit down, lie down, or stand up, what shall I do?" "Go instantly and hang yourself," was the reply.

SOME people have a fashion of thinking that the truth is a species of dull tomahawk, and that its efficiency is precisely proportioned to its power of *mangling*.

THERE are two kinds of family jars; into one you put your sweetmeats, and into the other you put your foot.

WHY is a kiss like *some* sermons? Because there are two heads and one application.

MARRIED *should* learn temperance from the *moon*; the *fatter* she gets, the *smaller* her horns *become*.

WHY *is* chicken pie like a gunsmith's *note*? *Because* it contains fowl in pieces.


## MISCELLANEOUS.

**LADIES' WORK BASKETS, OR STANDS.**

BEAUTIFUL *Patterns*—Light and Durable. Also, Suspension Flower Baskets, just received and for sale by B. BANNAN.

**PAPER RACK.**

PATENT MACHINE-MADE Paper Racks, to hold from 1 to 20 pounds, for Grocers, Druggists and others, for sale by K. GARRIGUES.
Centre street, Pottsville.
November 8, '56

**PACING MACHINE.**

THE subscriber has added a Paging Machine to his Bindery and is now prepared to rule Books, and number Tickets, &c., in large or small quantities. All kinds of Blank Books printed, ruled, paged and bound to order—and all kinds of Binding executed at short notice. Particular attention paid to *Binding Magazines, Pamphlets, &c.* B. BANNAN,
*Binder and Bookseller.*
June 6, '57 24-1

**SAVE YOUR TIME.**

READY MADE PAPER BAGS, FOR GROCERS, DRUGGISTS, CONFECTIONERS, BAKERS, &c.—The Subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has been appointed Agent for the sale of
**Patent Machine made Paper Bags,**
MANUFACTURED BY
Messrs. John H. Lovara & Co., of Philadelphia.

These Bags are of sizes and qualities of paper suitable for ALL PERSONS who use the article, and are offered at such prices as will at once commend them to the consumer.

There are many advantages in purchasing and using *ready made Bags*. Where no bags are used, it requires double the quantity of paper and string to pack the same number of pounds, and more time in putting up a package.

Where an extensive business is done and *Bags* made by hand, by buying *ready made Bags, one hand* can be dispensed with. By using them, you will not only save *time* and *money*, but always have a convenient receptacle in which to put up your goods.

Wherever these Bags have been introduced, they have given *entire satisfaction*.

For sale at *Manufacturers' prices* by
BENJ. BANNAN,
Paper and Book Dealer and Stationer,
Centre street, opposite Episcopal Church, Pottsville.
A first rate assortment of WRAPPING PAPER always on hand. Feb. 21, '57 8-

**PATENT METALLIC COFFINS!**

**READ! READ!!**

MR. H. GRESSANG has been appointed Agent for this county, for the sale of FISK'S PATENT METALLIC BURIAL CASES, which supersede all other kinds in use. Being perfectly air-tight, it obviates the necessity of embalming, and also preserves the body from immediate decomposition. They are particularly suitable for transporting the body from one place to another. The face is covered with a thick glass, with metal top, which can be removed at any time, and the face of the corpse seen by its friends or relatives. We might give you hundreds of certificates, to corroborate our statement, as to the advantages the Metallic Coffin has over the Wooden, but the following will suffice:

WASHINGTON, April 5th.

*Gentlemen*:—We witnessed the utility of your ornamental "Patent Metallic Burial Cases," used to convey the remains of the late Hon John C. Calhoun to the Congressional Cemetery, which impressed us with the belief that it is the best article known to us for transporting the dead to their final resting place.

With respect, we subscribe ourselves, yours, etc.,
(Signed,) Henry Clay, Lewis Cass, Dan. Webster, Wm. R. King, *Jeff. Davis*, J. M. Berrien, J. Y. Mason, D. R. Atchinson, A. C. Green, Wm. P. Mangum, Henry Dodge, B. S. Dickinson.

Similar testimonials might be added without number. Apply to H. GRESSANG,
*Centre street, corner of Union.*
Pottsville, June 9, 1856. 23-tf

**FARREL'S & HERRING'S Patent Fire Proof Safes.**

**B. BANNAN,**
*Bookseller and Stationer, Pottsville,*

IS authorized to sell their *Safes* in Schuylkill county. He will furnish them at the lowest manufacturers' prices at his Bookstore in Pottsville, where the sizes and a list of prices can be seen.

These *Safes*, on trial have proved to be superior in protecting Books, Papers, &c., from fire, to any now manufactured in the United States, and they are offered at equally low prices.

The following is an extract from the report of the *committee appointed to superintend* the recent trial test of burning Safes at Boston:

"On the 28th of February all the members of the Committee met to witness the Safes and Books and papers, (placed in them) and were perfectly satisfied that all was right. The day following the burning took place, under the *superintendence* of the Committee. After a fair and impartial burning for five hours in the furnace of Messrs. Farrels & Herring, the Safe of Messrs. Evans & Watson was first opened, the Safe being on fire inside, and the contents partially consumed, while the contents in the Safe of Messrs. Farrels & Herring were in good condition, and no fire inside."

*The Editor of the Berks and Schuylkill Journal*, together with fifty business men, who attended the burning of the Safes, testify to the truth of the above statement.

For cood and reliable Safes at manufacturers' prices, call on B. BANNAN.
*Agent for Farrel's & Herring's Safes.*
Pottsville, March 14th, '57 11-

**S. D. & H. W. SMITH,**
MANUFACTURERS OF
**Melodeons, Organ Melodeons, and Pedal Sub-Bass Harmoniums,**
**511 Washington Street, Boston.**

THE ATTENTION of Clergymen, Committees, Schools, Lodges, &c., is invited to the new Pedal Sub-Bass Harmoniums, made solely by the Manufacturers.

It is arranged with two manuals or banks of Keys, the lower set running an octave higher than the other, and may be used separately, and thus get in one case two distinct instruments; or, by the use of the coupler, the two banks of keys may be played at the same time by use of the front set only. This connected with the Sub-Bass, will produce the effect of a large organ, and is sufficiently heavy to fill a house that seats from 1000 to 1500 persons.

*THE ORGAN MELODEON*

Is designed for parlor and private use. The construction is similar to the Church Instrument, being arranged with two banks of Keys, and when used together, by means of the coupler, is capable of as great volume of power as the Church Instrument, when used without the Pedals.

Also, every variety of MELODEONS for Parlor use.

Purchasers may rely upon instruments from our Manufactory, being made in the most complete and thorough manner. Having removed to the spacious buildings, 511 WASHINGTON STREET, we have every facility for manufacturing purposes, and employ none but the most experienced and skillful workmen.

In short, we will promise our customers an Instrument equal if not superior in any Manufactory, and guarantee *ENTIRE AND PERFECT SATISFACTION.*

MUSIC TEACHERS, LEADERS OF CHOIRS, and others interested in musical matters, are respectfully invited to visit our rooms at any time and examine or test the instruments on exhibition for sale, at their pleasure.

As a still further guarantee to the public as to the excellence of the MELODEONS AND HARMONIUMS from our Manufactory, we beg leave to refer, by permission, to the following

PIANO FORTE MANUFACTURERS OF BOSTON.

Who have examined our Instruments and will give their opinion when called upon:

CHickering & Sons, Hallet & Cunston, T. Gilbert & Co.
W. E. Fabens, Brown & Allen, A. W. Lamb & Co.
George Hews, Woodward & Brown, Newhall & Co.
Melodeons & Harmoniums Rented.

Persons who wish to hire Melodeons and Harmoniums with a view of purchasing at the end of the year, can have the rent credited as part payment of the purchase money. This matter is worthy of special note, as it enables those who desire a fair test of the instrument before purchasing, to obtain it at the expense of the manufacturers, to the extent of the least of a year's rent.

Orders from any part of the country or world, sent direct to the manufactory in Boston, with cash or satisfactory reference, will be promptly attended to, and as faithfully executed as if the parties were present, or employed an agent to select, and on as reasonable terms.

**Price List**

| | |
|---|---|
| Scroll leg, 4½ octave, | $50 |
| Scroll leg, 5 octave, | 75 |
| Piano style, 5 octave, | 100 |
| Piano style, extra finish, 5 octave, | 110 |
| Piano style, carved leg, | 125 |
| Piano style, 2 sets of reeds, | 150 |
| Piano style, 6 octave, | 175 |
| Organ Melodeon, | 200 |
| Organ Melodeon, extra finish, | 250 |
| Pedal Sub-Bass Harmonium, | 275 |

Letters, Certificates and notices from the press, from all parts of the world, may also be seen at our salesroom.

Descriptive circulars sent free to any address.

S. D. & H. W. SMITH,
511 Washington Street, (Near Boylston Market,) Boston.
June 27 '57 26-1f

**BOSTON BELTING COMPANY.**
Machine Belting.

THE experience of the past ten years has gained for this Belting the confidence of manufacturers and consumers. The great improvements recently made in its quality, warrant us in asserting it to be superior to leather for all open Belts,—especially for heavy or main Belts.

Its first cost is much less than leather—it is stronger and more durable, and gives a gain in power on the pulley. It will stand a heat of 300 degrees without injury—a degree of cold or wet can injure its working. In all respects it is recommended for Saw-Mills, Mines, Grain Elevators, Machine Shops and Manufactories.

**Machine Belting, 3 & 4 Ply.**

*Scale of Prices, 3 and 4 ply, from which an estimate of the price of intermediate widths can be made.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 inch | 3-ply, per foot | 10 cents. | 4-ply, 13 cents. |
| 3 | " | 15 | " 17 " |
| 4 | " | 20 | " 22 " |
| 5 | " | 24 | " 30 " |
| 6 | " | 29 | " 36 " |
| 7 | " | 34 | " 42 " |
| 8 | " | 38 | " 47 " |
| 9 | " | 43 | " 53 " |
| 10 | " | 47 | " 58 " |
| 11 | " | 52 | " 64 " |
| 12 | " | 56 | " 70 " |
| 13 | " | 61 | " 75 " |
| 14 | " | 66 | " 81 " |
| 15 | " | 70 | " 87 " |
| 16 | " | 75 | " 92 " |
| 17 | " | 80 | " 98 " |
| 18 | " | 84 | " 104 " |
| 19 | " | 89 | " 110 " |
| 20 | " | 94 | " 116 " |
| 22 | " | 103 | " 127 " |
| 24 | " | 113 | " 138 " |

Heavy 5 and 6 ply Belts made to order for particular purposes where great strength is required, (as a substitute for double leather) at an advance of twenty-five and fifty per cent. on 4 ply prices.

**3 Ply Hydrant Hose.**

*Warranted to stand a pressure of 75 lbs. per square inch.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1-2 inch | per foot, | 20 cents. |
| 3-4 | " | 22 " |
| 7-8 | " | 23 " |
| 1 | " | 25 " |
| 1 1-4 | " | 30 " |
| 1 1-2 | " | 36 " |
| 1 3-4 | " | 43 " |
| 2 | " | 49 " |
| 3 | " | 70 " |

**4 Ply Locomotive & Fire Engine Hose.**

*Warranted to stand a pressure of 175 lbs. per square inch.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 3-4 inch | per foot, | 50 cents. |
| 2 | " | 55 " |
| 2 1-4 | " | 60 " |
| 2 1-2 | " | 65 " |
| 2 3-4 | " | 70 " |
| 3 | " | 75 " |

New York Croton Hose, 23 "

Hose of any size and strength made to order—also, Suction Hose for Fire Engines and other purposes.

The above Hose has great advantages over leather, as it needs no oiling, is perfectly tight, will stand a very high degree of heat without injury, and is not affected by the severest cold.

Couplings, Hose-Pipes, &c., furnished at the lowest prices.

**Steam Packing.**

This article is now in general use by the most skillful Engineers and Machinists throughout the United States.

It is prepared so that 300 Fahrenheit will not affect it, and is superior to everything else, as no substance has so much elasticity which gives so high a degree of heat, and may be used about all parts where packing is necessary, viz: Manhole Plates, Piston Rods, Steam Joints, Steam Chests, Cylinder Heads, Stuffing Boxes, etc., etc.

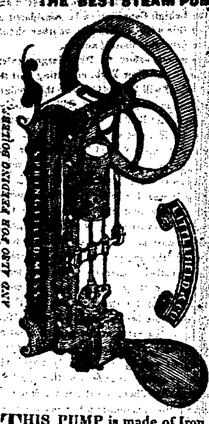
Packing made to order for all the various purposes, such as MANHOLE PLATES, PISTON RODS, FIRE FLANGES, HOT AND COLD WATER PUMPS, VACUUM PUMPS, FOOT AND DELIVERY VALVES FOR STEAM ENGINES, &c.

☞The subscriber has the Agency from the Manufacturers of the above articles. The Belts are the best in the United States, and we furnish them to Schuylkill Co. Machine Shops at manufacturers' prices, thus saving the carriage to the purchaser. Our orders have also the preference at the Mills over any others for Belts to be made to any pattern or thickness not on hand, as per agreement; we can at least time after the order is received.

*August 8, '57* 32 BENJ. BANNAN.

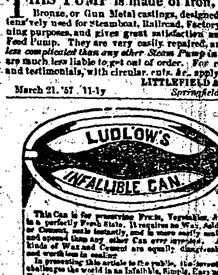
## MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE BEST STEAM PUMP**



*For Steamboat, Railroad, Factory and Mining purposes.*

THIS PUMP is made of Iron, Brass, Bronze, or Gun Metal castings, designed, and extensively used for Steamboat, Railroad, Factory and Mining purposes, and gives great satisfaction as a Boiler Feed Pump. They are very easily repaired, and, being *less complicated than any other Steam Pump* in use they are much less liable to get out of order. For references and testimonials, with circular, cuts, &c., apply to LITTLEFIELD & CO.,
*Springfield, Mass.*
March 21, '57 11-1y




This Can is for preserving Fruit, Vegetables, &c., in perfectly Fresh State. It requires no Wax, Rubber or Cement, nails or screws, and is more easily sealed and opened than any other Can ever invented. It is strong and air tight. Quality of material and workmanship unsurpassed.

In presenting this valuable article to the public, the inventor challenges the world in an infallible, Simple, Easy and Reliable Can, and guarantees it in the use of it for Fifteen Years, if it is without a fault. In the use of it for Fifteen Years, if it is without a fault. In the use of it for Fifteen Years, if it is without a fault. In