

VARIETIES.

The following curious advertisement appears in a daily paper:—"To be Sold, an Erard grand piano, the property of a lady about to travel with carved legs." As legs are generally calved, this is perhaps after all more superfluous than incorrect.

The misery of being called upon suddenly to make a speech was got over by a mathematician, who delivered himself in this fashion:—"Gentlemen, a morbid desire for originality prevents me from saying: 'This is the proudest moment of my life,' and it does not occur to me to say anything else."

In Mobile there are twins who cannot be punished for any offence because neither can be identified. Recently one of these young ladies put to flight two dog-catchers and a policeman. In court she proved to be her sister. A policeman accompanied her home to arrest the other, but on arriving could not tell which he had brought and which was already there, and went away sorrowing without either.

Some one who read a recent yarn by S—a, thought it would open oysters. He commenced the experiment by spreading the bivalves in a circle, seating himself in the centre, and beginning the yarn—an adventure in Mexico. As he proceeded the "natives" got interested, one by one they gaped with astonishment, and as they gaped a friend whipped them out, peppered them, and swallowed them.

Fifty-seven Chinese sailors having been shipwrecked and eaten by cannibals off the coast of Formosa, near the point inhabited by cannibals, the Emperor of China has issued the following high-flown mandate:—"Let the sufferers be rewarded according to the will of the memorialist. Let the civil and military officers make speed to examine and punish the cannibals, that it may be seen that we cherish the people in our bosom." Those who have eaten the Chinese, however, cherished them much more in their bosoms; indeed, also, if not so poetic, cherished them in their stomachs.

During the late visit of the Queen to Edinburgh advantage was taken of the excitement by a travelling circus company, who perambulated in costume the route Her Majesty was expected to take. Among the crowd which collected at Brandon Street was a Newhaven fishwife, who was all anxiety to see the Queen. This magnificent cavalcade, with its glittering display of theatrical grandeur, turned the corner, and when Maggie caught sight of the gorgeously apparelled lady who rode at the head of it, she sprang forward, seized the tinsel riding skirt and exclaimed: "Eh! yer Majesty, my dawtie, turn round and lets see yer tonny face: it's no often we get the chance o' seeing it." When loud laughter apprised her of her mistake she indignantly inquired, "Hoo she could be expected to ken the Queen, when she had never seen her, and that onybody wad expect a queen to come dressed in gold and silver."

A certain Dr. T—, of a town north of the Clyde, was a strong and decided Presbyterian, and his lady-love was as strong and decided a Baptist. They were sitting together one evening, talking of their approaching nuptials, when the doctor remarked: "I am thinking, my dear, of two events which I shall number among the happiest in my life." "And pray what may they be, doctor?" remarked the lady. "One is the hour when I shall call you my wife, for the first time." "And the other?" "It is when we shall present our first bairn for baptism." "What! sprinkled?" "Yes, my dear, sprinkled." "Never shall a bairn of mine be sprinkled, Dr. T—." "Every bairn of mine, Miss MacD—, shall be sprinkled." "They shall be, hey?" "Yes, my love." "Well, sir, I can tell you, then, that your lairns won't be my bairns. So good night, sir." The lady left the room, and the doctor left the house. The sequel was no marriage, no bairns, which was the most logical way of settling matters.

We see that Josh Billings has been answered by a rival "jokist." Billings having given to the world some of his philosophy, it appears to have "riled" the rival. Josh Billings wrote—"I won't swap dogs with no man, unless I can swap two for one." The rival answered—"What is this, Bosh? two men for one dog, or do you give two dogs for one dog? If so step this way." Josh continues—"No man shall beat me in politeness, not so long as politeness continues to be as cheap as it is now." His critic says—"In what land do they beat for politeness, and what sort of a stick have they used on thee, old Bosh?" Billings continues—"If a man kills me a phool, I won't ask him to prove it." The rival replies—"Needless—it stands to reason." Josh's last effort is—"If ennybody loozes even a goose I will weep with him, for it is a tuff bizness to looze a goose." The rival's last reply is—"Not so tough as you think, Bosh, for we say farewell without a pang."

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Intending Contractors are hereby informed that in December next, Tenders will be received for the execution and completion of certain portions of the works connected with the enlargement of the Welland Canal, between Port Colborne and Thorold; also for parts of the new line to the eastwards of the present canal, from what is called Marlatt's Pond through the valley of the Ten Mile Creek to Brown's Cement Kilns, thence via the Thorold and St. Catharines' Cemeteries to near Port Dalhousie.

The works are to be let in sections of a length suited to circumstances and the locality. The location surveys are now in progress, and at some places sufficiently advanced to admit of contractors examining the ground before winter sets in. When plans, specifications, and other documents are prepared, due notice will be given. Contractors will then have an opportunity of examining them, and be furnished with blank forms of Tender, at this office; or at the offices of the respective resident Engineers on the works.

By Order, F. BRAUN, Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, Ottawa, 4th October, 1872. 6-15c

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

TUESDAY, 16th Day of September, 1872.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Hon. the Minister of Customs, and under the provisions of the 8th section of the Act 31 Vict., cap. 6, intitled: "An Act representing the Customs," His Excellency has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the Out-Port of Peterboro', heretofore under the survey of the Port of Port Hope, be and the same is hereby constituted and erected into a Port of Entry for all the purposes of the said Act.

W. A. HIMSWORTH, Clerk, Privy Council.

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Northern and Western States, BY J. JOHNSTON, C.E., MONTREAL.

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE EARLY PART OF 1873

BY GEO. E. DESBARATS.

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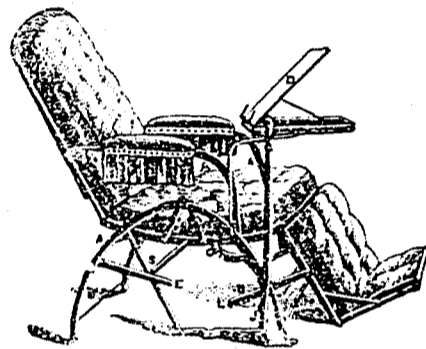
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