

Miscellaneous.

Most horses have bridle tours.

Wild deer are reported plentiful between Niagara and Cayuga.

An Iowa girl has 1,073 buttons on a string, but the old man has none on his shirt.

John S. Clarke, of Philadelphia, has purchased the Alhambra Theatre, making him the largest theatre owner in the world.

Mrs. Jarvis Craig, of Black Rapids, No. 19th ult. They are three girls.

The Orillon, Ont., Times says a large party of hunters went out for ten days and returned with one small doe shot by their guide. The doe is estimated to have cost about \$100.

Mr. M. H. Cochran, Compton, Que., has sold another of his Duchess Short-Horn heifers, ten months old, for twelve thousand dollars, to Col. Cannon, of Burlington.

During the late rainy season, the Port Perry Standard says a shower of frogs fell upon the new road a little south of Prince Albert, Man. Several parties who saw them have assured us that there were myriads of them on the road and the fields, hopping about as lively as possible.

The Brampton, Ont., Banner of Thursday says, Mr. Charles Dawson has shipped during the week about 9 900 head of geese and turkeys to England. He left yesterday himself to accompany his shipment, and to reap the advantage of an English Christmas.

The Empress of Austria is very fond of her horses. The Hungarian papers record of her that, after a recent hunting mishap, she considered they required her personal supervision so particularly that she had her breakfast brought to her in a stable.

The Niagara horseshoe is gone. Last Saturday, with a tremendous crash, the centre rocks in the Canadian fall gave way and tumbled into the abyss below, thus completely changing the appearance of the famous cataract. Instead of a horse shoe it is a right angle.

A despatch from Washington says:—The Postoffice Department and Canadian office have agreed to return letters between the two countries, bearing a request to do so within a given time, to the places they were mailed from, without, as formerly, holding them for return through the dead letter office.

A span of horses was found on Thursday by John Campbell on the 10th concession of Biddulph, in an exhausted and fainting condition, having evidently been abandoned after being very hard driven. He took them in charge, and found they belonged to Mr. McIlhenny, of Elginfield, from whom they had been stolen the previous night.

EXTRAORDINARY DUMB-BELL LIFTING.—A novel wager was decided at the Alhambra, San Francisco, on the 16th inst. It seems that Edward Brannan made a bet that he could put up a dumb-bell weighing 16½ lbs. more times than any ten men. Five men, however, only competed, and their scores were doubled, which made it really more than ten men could do. The competitors and their scores are as follows: Johnson, 405; Skinner, 50; Gamble, 180; Smith, 50; and Coffee, 110; total, 1,500. Brannan put the bell up 1,600 times, and won the match.

HE WANTED TO JINE.

"You wan' to jine the ban', do you?" said an old negro preacher to a young convert.

"Yes, sar, I wan' to jino."

"Well, sar, do you b'lieve Geriah, a pick-aniny little shaver, slewed a great big man called David, dat was longer den Centre Market, with a pebble dat war no bigger dan a huckleberry? Eh?"

"No! I don't b'lieve nothin' like dat," was the reply.

"Den you can't jino."

"Well, den, I b'lieves it. Go on wid der katekize."

"Do you b'lieve," continued the preacher.

THE TWENTY-FIVE MILE WALK.

ARMSTRONG WINS THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP IN FOUR HOURS, TWENTY MINUTES MINUTES AND TWELVE SECONDS.

Several of the best amateur walkers in the country started on Dec. 4, at the American Institute, Third avenue, New York, in a twenty-five mile walk for the championship of America, the prize being a gold medal given by the Knickerbocker Athletic Club. These aspirants for long distance pedestrian fame were J. W. W. Hunt, Knickerbocker Athletic Club; Chris. Renhafter, W. W. Cornish and G. J. Law, New York city; T. J. Higgins, J. S. McLeod, S. Jones, C. Frabre, T. Buckley and Charles Conner, Scottish-American Athletic Club; J. H. Groves, Central Athletic Club; T. O. Duffy, L. A. Berte and T. H. Armstrong, Harlem Athletic Club; A. Varian, Scottish Club; A. E. Latilla, Chappaqua, N. Y., and R. H. Pelton, Greenpoint, L. I. The formidable list of competitors is all the more remarkable as it embraces the whole number of entries for the event, with one exception, that being G. Bruce Gillie, who made himself famous last year by walking the distance in 4h 26m 5s, the first time it was ever accomplished in America. There was much judgment in the manner in which the competitors commenced their journey last evening, each seemed to have a clear idea of the magnitude of the task. Duffy stopped before finishing the ninth mile; Berte gave up at the 16th, as did Jones; Cornish fell by the wayside at eighteen and a half, and Conner at nineteen; Law retired just before reaching nineteen and a quarter. Armstrong proved the winner, walking scrupulously fair throughout, his time being 4h 20m 12s, just 5m 58s better than Gillie could do, and so the "best on record" in America must be placed against the name of the plucky Harlem lad for this distance, as it is already for many others. The winner was in good form, and was well cared for by his trainer, Jack Goulding, track master of the New York Athletic Club. The first five miles, Renhoff leading, was made in 51m. 20s; ten miles, Cornish leading, in 1h 41m 30s; fifteen miles, Armstrong leading, in 2h 20m 55s; twenty miles, Armstrong at the front, in 3h 25m 20s, and the twenty-five miles in 4h 20m 12s. The last five miles were reeled off by Armstrong as follows:—Twenty-first, 11m 15s; twenty-second, 10m 53s; twenty-third, 11m 32s; twenty-fourth, 11m 55s; twenty-fifth, 9m 17s, the last being the fastest made during the struggle.

A FRUITFUL VINE.

A monstrous bunch of grapes was recently exhibited at San Francisco, weighing 125 pounds and measuring eight feet long and six feet in circumference. The vine from which it was taken is said to produce from 10,000 to 12,000 pounds of grapes annually, and is an offshoot of the mammoth grapevine of Santa Barbara, which covered several acres of ground and was acknowledged to be the largest grapevine in the world, before it died, a few months back. A beautiful legend, by the way, is associated with the mother vine, running thus: A Spanish Hidalgo, living on the island many years ago, had a lovely daughter, who was enamored by a wealthy cavalier then on a visit to the old Don's plantation. The young were enjoying a ride, when the jennet the lady rode became stubborn and unruly. She desired the cavalier to procure her a switch, and, leaping from his horse, he cut a slip from a grapevine, and presented it to her. During the ride, the gentleman pressed his suit, but the coy Donna Isabella, sure of her conquest, put off her answer until their return to her father's mansion. To the infinite dismay of the ardent cavalier, she plucked the sprig of vine in the garden and made her acceptance of his hand and fortune conditional upon the life and growth of her riding switch. If it took root and in time became a running vine, she would consent to link her fate with that of her fond admirer, or its death was to be regarded as her dismissal of his suit. Distracted, the Cavalier, finding he could not induce the lady to abandon this apparently foolish freak, made up his mind to leave the object of his idolatry for ever: but at the request of her father he was coaxed into procrastinating his departure. A few weeks later he discovered, through the lady's maid, that her mistress watered the grape-cutting night and morning with her own hands, and tended it with the greatest care. This gave him new hope, and he lingered on, basking in her smiles. Days, weeks glided on rapidly, the enamored lover taking no note of time. Meanwhile the twig had taken root, and on a bright May morning put forth a tiny shoot; after this it grew and thrived, and then the happiness of

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