

## SELECTIONS.

**CURIOUS GRAMMATICAL AND TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.**—We observed an advertisement in the *Times*, lately, for a respectable middle-aged woman of good character, as “good plain cook in a small gentleman’s family.”—A London morning paper says:—“Mr. King, purveyor to her Majesty, at Brighton, who purchased, at the Smithfield Club Cattle Show, the *Highland Scot*, fed by Prince Albert at Flemish Farm, which obtained a silver medal, had the honour of supplying, by royal command, a splendid sirloin to the royal dinner table, of which both her Majesty and the prince partook.”—In a circular just issued by the Glasgow Temperance Society, the punter has caused the committee to make the following truly Milesian announcement:—“A ton of potatoes being nearly five times the weight of a ton of wheat, is supposed to yield a greater amount of nutriment.”

**CHINESE PRINTING.**—According to the best authorities, the art of printing was known in China upwards of 900 years ago. In the time of Confucius, B. C. 500, books were formed of slips of bamboo; and about 150 years after Christ, paper was first made; A. D. 715, books were bound into leaves; A. D. 900, printing was in general use. The process of printing is simple. The materials consist of a graver, blocks of woods, and a brush, which the printers carry with them from place to place. Without wheel, or wedge, or screw, a printer will throw off more than 2,500 impressions in one day. The paper (thin) can be bought for one-fourth the price in China that it can in any other country. The works of Confucius, six volumes, four hundred leaves, octavo, can be bought for nine-pence. For an historical novel, twenty volumes, one thousand five hundred leaves, half a crown is the price amongst the Chinese.—*Martin’s China*.

**WALKING ON THE WATER.**—A Dutch officer asserts that he has invented a species of shoes which will enable a man to walk and run on the water, and if upset to float on it. The shoes are attached to an apparatus which covers the entire body, leaving the free use of the arms, and the apparatus is said to be shot-proof. Several experiments have been made, and are said to have proved successful.

**MYSTERIES.**—Content thyself with what is clearly revealed, and leave what is hid and above thee unto God. Be not thou so bold as to measure the boundless mysteries of God by thy narrow, confined understanding; neither do thou presume to reject what thou canst not comprehend. What is of God is above thee, for God is God; he is clothed with honour and majesty, and with that light which is inaccessible.—*Lobb*.

Corpulent persons, desirous to regain their shape, should apply to some newspaper establishment for the office of collector.

Wilberforce believed that Sir S. Romilly and Lord Castlereagh became deranged from over exertion, the consequence of continuing to labour on Sunday as on other days.

In order to render floors clean and white without soap, and diminished labour, mix one pint of slackened lime with three parts of common sand, and scrub the boards well with a hard brush, and this mixture will have the desired result.

**A NOBLE FORTUNE NOBLY USED.**—The Duke de Luynes, who inhabits the Chateau Dampiere, in the environs of Versailles, has recently given a hundred thousand francs to the sufferers by the inundations in France. The Duke de Luynes has an income of 1,500,000 francs a year, and devotes every year 500,000 to deeds of benevolence, and as many more to the encouragement of the fine arts.

**THE ORIGIN OF THE TERM “NEWS.”**—The origin of this word has been variously defined, “News is a fresh account of anything;” “It is something not heard of before;” “News is an account of the transactions of present times.” The word “news” is not, as many imagine, derived from the adjective new. In former times, between the years 1595 and 1730, it was a prevalent practice, to put over the periodical publications of the day, the initial letters of the cardinal points of the compass, thus:

N  
E—|—W importing that these papers contained intelligence from  
S  
the four quarters of the globe; and from this practice is derived the term of newspapers.

**THE POOR MAY DO GOOD.**—I was visiting a brother minister a few years ago with a view to assist him at a missionary meeting which was to be held in his chapel. While I was in his house he called me into the kitchen, for what purpose I did not know till the scene explained itself. There stood an aged woman about 80 years old talking with the minister, and looking with a smiling countenance, and with sparkling eyes, as far as such aged orbs could sparkle, upon some silver which my friend at that moment held in his hand. It might have been supposed she was going to receive this money to multiply her comforts; for all her income was half-a-crown-a-week from the parish, and what the kindness of friends might occasionally bestow, out of which she paid eightpence for lodgings; but no, she came to give, not to receive. That money, amounting to more than ten shillings, she had earned by knitting various articles and selling them, and she was then in the kitchen, where I saw her, to place it in the hand of her minister for the Missionary Society. So you see the poor can do something for God’s cause, if they have “a mind to work.” But they may also do much in the way of direct effort for the conversion of souls. Can they not warn a profane sinner? or explain the way of salvation to those that are ignorant and out of the

way? or distribute tracts, and talk about their contents? or invite the neglectors of public worship to the house of God? Let the poor understand, value, and enjoy their privilege.—*Memoir of Elizabeth Bales, by J. A. James*.

**EXPLOSIONS.**—In order to remove an immense mass of rock in tunnelling for the Coleraine and Londonderry railway, it was advertised that a tremendous explosion would be caused at Downhill. About 12,000 people attended to witness it, from all parts of Ulster and the North of Scotland. There were 12 steamers in the offing! 35 cwt. of powder were employed. The mass dislodged was 22,000 tons. In the tunnel previously excavated, 500 persons afterwards partook of a dejeuner. The place was illuminated by 1,200 lamps. It was quite a gala scene.—*English Paper*.

**FRUIT.**—A farmer who is famous for good fruit, says he raises his trees in the following manner:—He takes a cutting from the best tree he can find, hits the end of the cutting into a large potato, and sets it in the earth, leaving but one or two inches of the cutting above the ground. The cutting soon sends out roots and grows rapidly making a fine tree which needs no grafting.

**SLANDER.**—It is a poor soul that cannot bear slander. No decent man can get along without it; at least none that are actually engaged in the struggle of business life. Have you a bad fellow in your employment, and discharge him, he goes round and slanders you; refuse another some modest boon which he has asked, he goes round and slanders you. In fine, as we said before, we would not give a cent for a man who is not slandered; it shows that he is either a milk-sop or a fool. No, no; earn a bad name from a bad fellow, and you can easily do so by correct conduct; it is the only way to prove that you are entitled to a good one.

If dried peas, either for soup or eating whole, are soaked till they begin to vegetate (about two days) they will taste as sweet as green peas.

**THE VELOCITY OF A CANNON BALL OR SHOT.**—When the mammoth cannon was recently proved at South Boston, the heaviest shell was thrown about three miles, and the time occupied in its journey was a minute and a half. Thus it appears that its velocity was only about double that of some of the English railroad expresses.

**FLIGHTS OF BIRDS.**—A vulture can fly at the rate of 150 miles an hour. Wild geese can travel at the rate of 90 miles an hour. The common crow can fly 25 miles, and swallows 62 miles an hour. It is said that a falcon was discovered at Malta 25 hours after the departure of Henry IV. from Fontainebleau. If true, this bird must have flown for 24 hours at the rate of 57 miles an hour, not allowing him to rest a moment during the whole time.

**BUCKWHEAT.**—The New York Courier’s correspondent remarks that buckwheat is but little known in England—as food for man, it is utterly unknown. It is sometimes sown to keep pheasants from more valuable crops, and around bee hives for the sake of the honey which the bees extract from its flowers.

**HENS.**—We have frequently seen it asserted in our agricultural papers that hens are the most profitable fowls that a farmer can raise. We are inclined to believe the statement substantially true. The only requisite is to keep them well, and see that they are constantly fed with meal, grain, lime, gravel, and, indeed, all those substances which they naturally require to preserve them in a state of health. Hen keeping has now come to be properly regarded as an essential branch of farming, and as competition increases, improved breeds and models of management will be indispensable to success. We think that by judicious management, the net profit of hens may be made to exceed that of any fowls usually kept on the farm. They devour large quantities of rubbish, and are servicable in thus converting much that would otherwise come under the denomination of refuse, to a profitable use.

**WOODLANDS.**—Many farmers pursue a very erroneous policy in reference to their woodlands. Instead of cutting all clean as they go, it too commonly is the case that only the older and larger trees are selected, or those which are decayed or dead. This method is scarcely to be pursued without serious detriment to the growth, as, in felling, many small trees must inevitably be lacerated or destroyed outright. If the growth is thick, extensive openings will be made, and, besides, roads must be cleared in order to get out the wood after it is cut. The most economical plan is to cut all smooth as you proceed. The clearing thus effected, if it be intended for a future growth, should be immediately enclosed and carefully protected from the intrusions of cattle, sheep and other animals, by which the young sprouts, which start with great vigour and pursue their growth rapidly, would be broken and destroyed. In France this is the plan universally pursued, and, according to some authorities, the only one which the government, under whose special supervision all the forests of the kingdom are rigidly retained, allows.—*Maine Farmer*.

**THE OCEAN.**—So vast is the Atlantic Ocean, that all the ships in the world might be dispersed over it so that one might not be in sight of another.

**A LONG TRAIN.**—A correspondent of the Rochester Democrat writes thus:—“On our way east we passed the longest train of cars on the Boston and Albany road that has ever crossed the track. It was composed of 122 cars of an average length of 30 feet each—making a train of over 3700 feet, or near three quarters of a mile long, and all drawn by one powerful engine.