

**PREMATURE.**—Mr. Rudolphe Lehmann has completed for the Baron Julius de Reuter a large portrait picture, designed to commemorate the ratification of the Persian concession. Baron de Reuter is represented seated at a table, surrounded by about a dozen life-size full-length portraits of the chief contracting parties. A portrait of the Shah hangs on the wall of the room. It will serve a memory of the past, the Shah having revoked the Persian concession.

**MERIMEE'S "UNKNOWN."**—Referring to Merimee's "Lettres à une Inconnue," an editorial in the London *Daily Telegraph* says: "The Parisians are interested to learn the name of Merimee's correspondent. Who is the 'Inconnue' to whom he writes, some times as a lover, sometimes as a Platonic friend, sometimes like a teacher or an elderly relation, but always with the deep affection which often dwells in reserved natures? He was known to have had several devoted female friends, and romantic stories are told of his attachments; but the gossip of Paris is baffled to find out the name of the lady to whom he wrote for more than twenty years. It is clear that she is an English woman, but that is all we know about her. M. Taine, who has written fine a preliminary essay on Merimee himself, and who may be called the editor of the book, knows as little of the clue to the mystery as the readers. M. About, in a letter to the *Athenaeum*, says that on his death-bed Merimee gave his executor four mourning rings, with instructions that they should be sent to four ladies, and one of those ladies is the heroine of the epistle; but the sanctity of his office forbids the executor to say more. The publishers, it was said, were so eager to learn the name that, finding it written on one of the manuscripts, and carefully defaced with ink, they had employed chemical means to reach the hidden words, and an English lady was mentioned as the result of the discovery. But the publishers indignantly deny that they have been guilty of such dishonorable conduct, and it is said that they intend to prosecute the libeller. So the dinner-tables and the literary gatherings of Paris are baffled. M. About tells us, indeed, that M. Alexander Dumas, who resents mysteries which he himself cannot fathom, half suspects this 'Inconnue' to have no existence, and Merimee to have written the letters for the deliberate purpose of mystifying posterity."

**BRAZILIAN WOMEN.**—A Rio Janeiro correspondent of the *Providence Journal* declares that handsome women are rare in Brazil, and adds: "The face is generally very plain, and often ugly, and I really believe that because the lack of comeliness is so frequent it is not truly apprehended. The complexion is generally sallow, never clear and fresh, and by no means improved by the abundant use made of cosmetics. If any single feature deserves notice it is the eyes, and yet these do not possess that quality which makes even the plainest eye brilliant; there is no soul looking at you or speaking to you through them. Childhood seems to cover the whole period of physical beauty, and some of the children are most interesting; yet even then the habits and tastes of ignorant and commonly negro nurses are fixed, in place of the impressions of a mother's careful training, and the example of a mother's devoted life. The excessive vanity of girlhood, which seems to be encouraged by the parents rather than restrained; the gratification of the palate with all manner of sweets and condiments; the entire absence of any physical exercise; and, what is more, nothing but weakness inherited, cannot assure any perfect womanliness. Foreign ladies who teach in the schools (private and select schools) have told me that school-girl life in Brazil is in a most lamentable moral condition. A knowledge of French, music, and dancing is all that is considered worth obtaining, and then until marriage—which doesn't come at all to many of them, or if it does come is an arrangement of the parents, and simply changes the place of idleness—they wait, doing nothing, week, month, and year, nothing; they neither study, nor read, nor sew, they do nothing. In the forenoon, in a state of slothful *dishabille*, they dawdle and lounge around the house; in the afternoon they look out of the windows; and this is a national custom, most striking to a stranger, to see them, white and black, high and low, educated and illiterate, hanging out of the windows through the afternoon; indeed, the window seats are filled with cushions that the arms may not become bruised by the continual leaning upon them. In the evening, dressed—and I really believe the taste displayed would give madame Demorest convulsions if not paralysis—they sit and sit, and do nothing else again. Sometimes they speak, and it's wonderful what commonplaces can be uttered and how little can be said when the Brazilian mouth does open. So far as female employment is concerned, does a Brazilian girl labor for her support? No, indeed! She would rather have but one dress and turn it on holidays. Her father would sell his shirt first, and then button up his seedy coat. Her mother would die of mortification. And so they live poor and vain, sipping an aristocracy by mock attempt at show, the cheap and tawdry emptiness of what is ridiculous. The wealthier, and not less vain, are surrounded with an atmosphere of frigid *hautevolé*, through which only members of the clique have the courage to attempt to penetrate. The Brazilian woman develops and matures young, and becomes old while still young. Her moral sensibilities become obscured by the life which exists about her and into which she may possibly at time get a glance through the curtains of her father or her brothers."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

**TO OBTAIN SKELETONS OF SMALL ANIMALS.**—The most easy way is by burying them for a few weeks, when the bones will be found beautifully cleaned by the worms. They have then to be fixed together by wire. A natural skeleton may be easily made by removing all the soft parts, macerating in water for a short time, and cleaning with a knife, so as to leave the bones attached by their own ligaments.

**BREAD AND WATER POUltICE.**—Scald out a basin, for you can never make a good poultice unless you have perfectly boiling water; then having put in some hot water, throw in coarsely crumbled bread, and cover it with a plate. When the bread has soaked up as much water as it will imbibe, drain off the remaining water, and there will be left a light pulp. Spread it a third of an inch thick, on folded linen, and apply it when of the temperature of a warm bath. When vegetables—as carrots, horseradish, and others are used to medicate poultices, they should be bruised, put into a pot, covered with water, and simmered for about half an hour. The juice is then to be strained off and mixed with bread and water or linseed meal, to the consistency of a poultice. The poppy fomentation may be used with bread or meal in the same way.

**STARCH FOR THE LAUNDRY.**—This requires some care and attention. The best vessels to make it in are those of brass, bell-metal, copper tinned, or earthenware pipkins. If starch were made in a tin saucepan, it would be a chance if it did not burn; an iron saucepan would burn it black; it would be discolored by copper, if the inner surface of the vessel were not tinned. The very best vessel for starch-making is a bell-metal skillet. Mix the starch with cold water till it is of the consistency of common paste, carefully pressing abroad all the lumps; then pour upon it boiling water, in the proportion of a pint to an ounce of starch. If the starch is pure and without blue, add the quantity of blue necessary to give it the proper tint, to the boiling water before it is poured upon the starch, which is effected by putting the blue into a flannel bag, and letting the water dissolve a sufficient quantity. Set the skillet over the fire, and stir the starch with a clean wooden spoon. When the starch has boiled up, remove it from the fire. When starch is required more than usually stiff, a little isinglass may be dissolved and mixed with it after it is removed from the fire.

**PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF THE DISEASES OCCASIONED BY THE USE OF LEAD.**—There are more than forty trades which are injurious to the health of those who work at them, all having poisonous effects, which are not unfrequently fatal to life. The worst of all are those in which a chemical preparation of lead forms the basis of the manufacture, such as litharge, white lead, minium, &c. &c. Melting and flattening houses, shot manufactories, type foundries, the application of the various preparations in potteries in glasshouses, of the salts of lead in painting and building, the pulverization of colors, the dyeing horse hair stuffs black, polishing, &c. &c., all employ a considerable number of workmen, who are exposed to the action of large quantities of volatilized poisonous matter, in the form of vapor, dust, or solution. The absorbing surface of the body comes in contact with these pernicious substances, which are taken up with increased rapidity as the frame becomes excited by labor. Thus most of the unhappy artisans whom necessity forces into these pestilential workshops, come to the hospitals after a few months, or even weeks, with every symptom of the worst cases of poison. They are generally attacked by violent cholera, which, if it be not fatal, is followed by extreme debility, and often incurable paralysis. The less frequent symptoms are epileptic, which, if not immediately fatal, are succeeded by paralysis, mental alienation, cachexy, and weakness, all beyond the reach of medicine. It is an obvious duty, both of superintendents and medical men, to use every effort towards the cure and prevention of these maladies, and it will be useful to make known to the public the preventive treatment which has been employed and approved of by eminent physicians to the hospitals in Paris. This treatment is extremely simple, and only requires the workmen to submit to the following precautions. They are to take two baths of soap and water every week, occasionally adding a little sulphur, and are carefully to wash the uncovered parts of the body with soap and water at every interval between their working hours. They are to drink one or two glasses of lemonade, made with sulphuric acid, every day, according to the greater or lesser quantity of dust, or poisonous vapor, with which the surrounding atmosphere may be charged. At the same time they should be more careful than the followers of any other trade, to abstain from the use of spirituous liquors. The efficacy of this preventive treatment is easily explained by the fact, that the mineral poison absorbed is thus converted into a soluble, and therefore innocuous salt (sulphate of lead), and the saturnine particles deposited on the surface of the body are taken away. The sulphuric lemonade and common soap may be had for a few pence each week; and in the large, and consequently most unwholesome, establishments, the condensed water from the steam engines, now thrown away, may be advantageously employed for the baths. The proprietors would find an immense advantage in providing accommodations and ingredients for this purpose; as by these means they would be able to retain experienced workmen, instead of suffering the annoyance of a constant succession of inexperienced hands.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

It is remarked by a would-be philosopher that some people are wise one day and otherwise the next.

CAN anybody explain why late comers and early goers at popular lectures invariably have creaky boots?

AN opened letter at the dead letter office read as follows:—"Seven years is rather long to kort a gal; but ile have you yit, Kate."

WE understand that respectable washerwomen in Denver now decline to work for persons who are mean enough to mark their linen, and thus not only show a want of confidence, but give the trouble of sorting the things.

THE engineer of one of the largest dockyards, of Spain—a Scotchman—some time back ordered several wheelbarrows to be made. The vehicle, it may be mentioned, is unknown in the Peninsula. The first one made was brought in the yard for inspection, carried by four men, two holding the wheel, and one at each shaft!

THE caution of the New Englander in giving an answer to a direct question was illustrated to me, says a correspondent, the other day, when I asked an Eastern friend of mine, whose family were not noted for very active habits, 'Was not your father's death very sudden?' Slowly drawing one hand from his pocket, and pulling down his beard, the interrogated cautiously replied, 'Wa'al, rather sudden for him.'

JUDGE NOAH DAVIS sometimes "enlivens the tedium of legal proceedings with a little honest hilarity." A few days since in court he had before him the case of one Colonel Price, who had separated from one wife, been divorced from a second, and was abandoned by a third. Wife No. 3 was claiming alimony, and the judge, in stating how matters stood, remarked that "the third wife went out of her own motion, without money and without Price." It was the best the judge could do with it.

"AN effeminate man," says a recent writer, "is a weak poultice. He is a cross between table-beer and ginger-pop with the cork left out; a fresh-water mermaid found in a cow pasture with her hands filled with dandelions. He is 'tea-cupful of syllabub; a kitten in trowsers; a sack monkey with a blonde mustache. He is a vine without any tendrils; a fly drowned in oil; a paper kite in a dead calm. He lives like a butterfly—nobody can tell why. He is as harmless as a pennyworth of sugar-candy, and as useless as a shirt-button without a hole. He is as lazy as a slug, and has no more hope than last year's summer fly. He goes through life on tip-toe, and dies like Cologne-water spilled over the ground."

"THE irrepressible joker at the Banks Club, the other day," says "After Dinner," "while touching up his oysters with pepper from the caster, observed to the waiter that 'the pepper was half peas.' 'Oh, no,' said the polite attendant, 'that it is the best sort of pepper.' 'Well, I tell you is half peas; call Mr. Mills.' That gentleman came, and the joker remarked, 'I always expect to get the best of everything in this house, but this pepper is half peas.' 'That can't be so; we take especial pains to procure it, and have it ground in our own mill.' 'Well, it is so, I can prove it.' 'If you can I should like to have you.' 'Well, John, you just spell it.' And the amiable proprietor retired with a sweet and gentle smile on his benevolent face."

JOSEPH was brought before a country squire for stealing a hog, and three witnesses being examined swore that they saw him steal it. A wag, having volunteered as counsel for Joseph, knowing the scope of the squire's brain arose and addressed him as follows: "May it please your honor, I can establish this man's honesty beyond the shadow of a doubt; for I have twelve witnesses ready to swear that they did not see him steal it." The squire rested his head for a few moments upon his hand, as if in deep thought, and then with great dignity arose, and brushing back his hair, said, "If there are twelve who did not see him steal it, and only three that did, I discharge the prisoner. Clear the room!"

THINGS I DO NOT KNOW.—Why people who are "thankful that it isn't any worse" are not proportionately wrathful that it's as bad as it is.

Why a man who writes a purposeless letter commonly begins by apologizing for not having written it sooner.

Why a man who subscribes himself "my humble obedient servant" gets angry if requested to clean my boots.

Why people who profess the most absorbing interest in the weather never attend to what I have to say about it.

Why women whose "own hair" I am privileged to inspect have, as a rule, recently recovered from fever, since which the hair has not been so luxuriant as before.

Why men who are fond of intellectual battles, combats of wit, etc., don't make good soldiers.

Why pretty women prefer to kiss one another on the cheek, and why they don't kiss often.

What truthful answer to make when a small child asks me, in the presence of its mother and the young ladies, if I ever let my little girl ride on my back, like I was a pony.

What to do when I have told something to Jones as having happened to myself, and then remember that I had the story from him. Whether it is worth while to do any thing.

How to prevent a man from discovering that I don't know his name, who comes up and shakes hands with me, and evidently expects an introduction to the friend I am talking with.

How to retain the confidence of a friend who asks me for a small loan, if I have not the money.

How to ascertain if my purse is safe when talking to a beggar, without exciting false hopes.

I call on a friend to tell him it will be impossible to keep my appointment to dine with him. Ignorant of the object of my visit he, to my intense relief, asks that another time may be appointed, as he has recollected a previous engagement. I then foolishly counterfeited regret, but of course excuse him. Suddenly he finds he has not made a previous engagement, and is delighted that we can carry out the original intention—How to get out of it?

OUR PUZZLER.

65. ENIGMA.

At fairs and *fetes*, in various states,  
I'm seen at the place assign'd me;  
And men of renown, when in a strange town,  
Ere this have been glad to find me.  
'Tis very true, what I tell you,  
That I've caused a great sensation;  
If your sister dear I married, 'tis clear  
I then should be your relation.  
You often read of me in a deed;  
And, perhaps, on the day of your marriage,  
When from church you rode to the bride's  
abode  
To lunch, I was seen with the carriage.

66. TRANSPOSITIONS.

1. Alas thos(e) chimes, T. Hirdy; 2. For U,  
one rich in life, yet calm; 3. Loudly he let go;  
4. Tell Etail to mend thy shoe; 5. Man is proud,  
Fan, but pledged.

67. PUZZLE.

One thousand and one,  
And the half of a hundred,  
Will name little rascals  
Who often have plundered.

68. CHARADE.

In a play (Shaksperian)—really, to give  
No nearer clue I durst,—  
'Tis asked by a courtier, "What do you read!"  
And his highness replies, "My first."  
You'd never have puzzled your brains o'er this,  
If the editor wise had reckoned  
(That terrible critic of prose and verse)  
That this riddle possessed not my second;  
And my whole is the name  
Of a poet of fame.

69. CHARADE.

Round the first we're yearly taken,  
Or I'm very much mistaken;  
And from which it may be reckoned  
What is the right time of second,  
A second is my whole to rest,  
And of all others 'tis the best.

70. PUZZLE.

Put down a thousand, a hundred, and one—  
The meaning you'll readily seize  
If a letter you add. Now, when that is done,  
Guess something that comes after cheese.

71. DOUBLE ARITHMOREM.

Son and 11; O pay, 1,051; a thorn, 102; re-  
pent, 102; neap, 51; part, 2,000; poet, 1 H;  
say sure and 100.

The initials name a famous philosopher; the  
finals name his wife.

72. CHARADE.

Round my second climbs my first,  
Higher every hour;  
Still clinging round my whole, 'twill burst  
Into a beauteous flower.

\$3.00 LORD BROUGHAM  
TELESCOPE.

Will distinguish the time by a church clock five miles,  
a FLAGSTAFF and WINDOW BARS 10 MILES; landscape  
twenty miles distant, and will define the SATELLITES  
OF JUPITER and the PHASES OF VENUS, &c., &c. This  
extraordinary CHEAP and POWERFUL GLASS is of the  
best make and possesses ACHROMATIC LENSES and is  
equal to a telescope costing \$20.00. NO STUDENT or  
TOURIST should be without one. Sent Post free to all  
parts in the Dominion of Canada on receipt of price,  
\$3.00

H. SANDERS,  
Optician, &c.

163 St. James Street, Montreal.

Illustrated Catalogue 16 pages sent free for one  
stamp.

AVOID QUACKS.

A victim of early indiscretion, causing nervous  
debility, premature decay, &c., having tried in vain  
every advertised remedy, has discovered a simple  
means of self-cure, which he will send free to his  
fellow-sufferers. Address, J. H. REEVES, 78 Nassau  
St., New York. 2-13-1 an

Printed and published by the DESBARATS LITHO-  
GRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1, Place d'Armes  
Hill, and 319, St. Antoine St., Montreal.