

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

From the Chicago Letter-Column.

From the Chicago Letter-Column. Rochester, Minn., October 30, 1875. In what way are members of Parliament paid for their services?

Ans.—Members of the British Parliament receive no pay.

CHALLENGE, Iowa, Oct. 28. Will you please to tell me why Edward the Confessor was so called?

Ans.—On account of his great sanctity, for which about a century after his death, he was canonized and called "The Confessor."

COLLEGE SPRINGS, Iowa, Oct. 23. In your issue of the 21st inst., J. B. W. of Caberry, Ill., who asks the question, "How do you account for tree toads and frogs on trees and the twigs sticking through them?"

Ans.—The smallest of the hawk species, called by some the mouse hawk, by others the "butcher bird," capture these toads, frogs, mice, etc., etc., and hang them on the twigs of trees, and on account of this practice are called the "butcher bird."

PATRON, Nebraska, Oct. 28. In your weekly of October 21 you did not fully reply to the question of J. B. W. of Caberry, Ill., who evidently thinks because he has found frogs and toads impaled on twigs and thorns they must have rained down.

I have seen on the same wild plum tree not only toads and frogs, but crickets, lizards and small snakes and insects, and when I go again there I find them thus—if he is good at net hunting—he may find in the immediate vicinity the nest of the shrike or butcher bird, who has thus hung up food for a "rainy day."

PATRON, Neb., Oct. 29. 1. What is the freight per ton or bushel on grain from New York to some of the leading foreign countries to which we now export? 2. To what countries do we usually export the most grain?

Ans.—1. Ocean freights from New York to Liverpool are about nine pence per hundred pounds. 2. The bulk of it goes to Great Britain, considerable to Germany, and large quantities to South America, principally flour to Brazil.

CANTON, Ill., Nov. 1. How many stars are visible in the sky?

Ans.—The number of stars visible to the naked eye in the entire circuit of the heavens is usually estimated at ten thousand; an ordinary opera glass brings out five times that number; a comparatively small telescope easily shows 300,000; while the best telescopes with which the astronomer and believe not less than 25,000,000 stars are visible.

CINCINNATI, Iowa, Oct. 28. 1. What causes the sun to appear so much larger at rising and setting than at other times? 2. Why does it not appear the same size to every eye?

Ans.—1. Because, when near the horizon it is brought into sizes of terrestrial objects and it appears larger, while when near the meridian it occupies the center of a vast expanse, and as there are no objects of comparison near it it appears smaller. 2. Because some persons are near-sighted than others.

MCLEAN, Ill., Oct. 29. I would like to know where the day commences. For instance if a man at noon to-day (Friday) could commence traveling west and keep going, what time would it be twenty-four hours, of course he would make the circumference of the earth, and arrive here again at noon Saturday.

Ans.—The day time is 180° from Greenwich. This is, we believe, universally adopted, and it is there only two exceptions, Manila, in the Philippine islands, lies one day behind the rest of the East Indies in its expression of the days of the week, while Alaska is one day ahead of its neighbor, British Columbia. The reasons for these anomalies are as follows: The Philippine Islands were colonized by Spain, who first came there from the East Indies across the Pacific, but the rest of the East Indies were colonized by Europeans coming from the opposite direction. Each set of colonists brought its own day of the week, and consequently it happened, oddly enough, that Manila is weekly keeping its Sunday, while the neighboring islands are having their Monday. So in regard to Alaska. That country was first settled by the Russians, coming from the west, while the remainder of the eastern coast of the Pacific was settled from the east. This it happens that while Alaska is keeping Sunday, it is only Saturday on the rest of the coast. And what is more wonderful still, Alaska, being 90° east of Manila, will already have enjoyed one fourth of its Monday day before the latter place enters upon its Sunday. In crossing this line, vessels from California add or drop one day from the week as the case may be.

CRAWFORDVILLE, Ind., Oct. 30. Please give a short sketch of the life of Thomas H. Benton. Also a sketch of the sketch of the Prince Imperial of France. 3. Give a few reasons why he should not be restored to throne of France. 4. Is the national bank system injurious to American industry? 5. Where can I procure a treatise showing the relations of national banking to American industry?

Ans.—1. Thomas H. Benton was born in Hillsboro, N. C., on Feb. 14, 1781, and studied at Chapel Hill University, where he graduated in 1802. He then went to Tennessee, where he studied law and rose to prominence in his profession. He served one term in the Legislature of that State, and procured the passage of laws reforming the judicial system, and giving the negroes the right of trial by jury. He became aide-camp to General Jackson, with whom he contracted a close intimacy, but an affair with pistols and daggers, in which wounds were given and received on both sides, estranged them for many years. In 1818 he removed to St. Louis, Mo., established the *Inquirer*, and practiced law. He took a vigorous part in favor of the admission of Missouri into the Union, and was regarded by being elected to the United States Senate, where he held his seat for thirty years. He opposed the administration of Mr. Adams and supported those of Jackson and Van Buren. In 1854 he was defeated for the Senate, and in 1856 stamped the State as candidate for governor, but failed. In that year he supported Buchanan for the Presidency, and opposed his own son-in-law Fremont. He died in Washington April 10, 1858. 2. Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte, Prince Imperial of France, was born March 15, 1856. For some time great fears were entertained on account of his delicacy of health. In 1870 he accompanied his father to the seat of war, and was present August 5, at the capture of Sedan, when he received his baptism of fire. After the disastrous defeat of Sedan the young prince made his escape to Belgium, and crossing from Ostend to Dover September 6, proceeded to Hastings, where he was joined by his mother three days afterward. He has since resided at Chislehurst, England. 3. There is only one reason, and that is that the French people do not believe it a benefit. 5. Get Kelley's "New Monetary System," published by H. C. Baird, No. 46 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., at \$1.00.

HIS HONOR AND BIJAH.

An Hour at the Central Prison, Court.

From the Detroit Free Press. "Got a Chinaman, eh?" mused his Honor, as Bijah proudly escorted out a "John." The prisoner indulged in many gestures and a great deal of Chinese language.

"It won't do, my boy—won't do," replied the Court, with a shake of his head. "I can't understand your infernal lingo, and you needn't talk trash—close marks to me. I am here to administer law in the name of the American people, in the American language, and I want to know about your being drunk. You were found on the walk, dead drunk, and this is your hour of peril."

"Washe—glood man—Michigan Avenue!" said the prisoner, going through with many motions. "Are you one of Wah Hap's men?" "Yes—yes—washe Wah Hap—no gleet drink!"

"You might have been stretched out on the walk to get a bite of fresh air, but it looks to me as if your legs had been tangled up by whisky. What do you mean, you say, by coming over to America and getting a brick in your hat?" "Washe—washe!" responded John. "Boy, you had better look out! You look like the heathen who starched a dozen shirts for me when I went East last summer, and I swore vengeance on him! I believe you are guilty, but I suppose I've got to let you off. Listen to me, now!"

The Chinaman gave a great jump as his Honor struck the desk, and the Court continued: "Look me right in the eye, you salmon-colored Celestial, and mark my words. If you ever get drunk in this town again I'll make you think that all the loss-houses in Pekin have tumbled down on you! Go, now, and don't turn on the right or left as you make tracks for the office of that pesky rascal, Wah Hap."

A REMARK. "Henry Desire, do you desire to say anything in this case?" inquired his Honor of the next.

"Yes, sir."

"Well, say on, but don't have more than three chapters in it, no others are waiting in the corridor."

"I got drunk on election day, your Honor, and—"

"And have been drunk ever since," added the Court, as the prisoner pined.

"You couldn't have hit it closer!" said Henry, a smile of admiration covering his face.

"You got drunk Tuesday, kept drunk Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and are believe not less than 25,000,000 stars are visible."

"That's it, your Honor—you've hit the case exactly!"

"Mr. Desire, you are not a fair-minded citizen. This thing ought to be divided up among your fellow-men. You can't expect to keep drunk four or five days and still maintain the reputation of a liberal-hearted man. Other people want a chance, and from my earliest infancy I have been down on monopolies. I have carefully considered your case, and I believe you ought to be sent up for three months."

"Just my figures!" exclaimed the admiring Henry. "I'll give in a jiffy!"

But it was thought best to have him go in the Black Maria.

A CHANGE OF TASTE. "Samuel Day, your smartness will strike in some day and be the death of you!" was his Honor's greeting to the next prisoner.

Samuel stood on one leg and looked foolish, and the Court continued:

"You were here a month ago, and your breath smelt of onions so terribly that I hustled you out without regard to the interests of justice. You have returned with the same odor about you, expecting the same results, but ah! my boy, my taste has undergone a radical change. In four short weeks I have learned to love the odor given out by the shny onion, and I welcome you here! It time allowed I would like to have you stand there all day and breathe at me; but it won't, and I shall send you to join the procession which keeps lock-step while marching to meek."

"What'd do?" inquired the prisoner.

"I can't look up your history just now, Samuel. You have been here for wife-beating, drunkenness, and liquor know what else. The charge this time is disturbing the peace, and I know that if there was any to disturb you are guilty. Go in and sit down and chew away on your onion, and be glad that I didn't make the sentence six months."

DOG VS. CAT. "Two old women here for disturbing the peace? Well, Mrs. Rose, clear your throat, expand your lungs, and give me a column and a half of explanation."

"You see, sir," she began in a fierce voice, "I have a dog!"

"That's right, madam. If I had time I'd own a thousand dogs."

"And this Mrs. Bannister has a cat?"

"Yes, your honor. What is the color of this dog and this cat?"

"Maltese and white; and yesterday as the dog was sitting on the door-step, saying nothing to nobody, and her cat was on the fence, wanting a fuss. Mrs. Bannister comes out and says she: 'I'll scald your sooty-eyed dog, I will.' And I says: 'And I'll pizen that howling cat of yours!' And then, true as I stand here, your Honor—"

"And then—yes, I can imagine all the rest. You two old women called each other names, clawed at each other over the pickets, raised the neighbors and were justly arrested. Now then, I don't want to hear any more. I fine you three dollars each, and I warn you that if you don't come out on the same charge again I'll put you on my coat and go up there and knock your wall-eyed cat and sooty-headed dog in the head."

"It's a beautiful cat!" shouted Mrs. Bannister.

"It's the finest dog in town!" screamed Mrs. Rose.

"I don't care—hustle right out o' here, and don't stop on the street to call each other names!"

THE SMALL BOY. He was ten years old. He had a red nose, tears in his eyes, ragged clothes, and he was awful sorry.

"It makes a shiver run up and down my back when I think of this boy standing on a corner and calling pedestrians names," said his Honor gravely.

"It was in fun!" wailed the lad.

"Think of his calling men 'old bald-headed' and the like of that!"

"Jim put me up to it!"

"I don't want to send him to prison, and you'll see he'll turn out a bad boy."

"Yes, your honor. I'll never call him names no more!" sobbed the boy.

His Honor left his chair, walked down to the boy, and putting his hand on his head he solemnly said:

"But a bald-headed man isn't to blame for it. He'd have hair there if he could. I'm not, and Bijah is bald, but we always pay our taxes, and we never call any one never dead-bald a street-car. You may go home, but if you come again I shall know that you want to turn out a Dick Turpin, and I shall deal with you accordingly."

JUSTICE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Jim Barker's Trial and Committal to Prison.

Jim Barker, says the Rocky Mountain News, a well known character of the mountains, whose late string hangs out at the head of Blue Lizard gulch, was duly elected a Justice of the Peace for that section of El Paso County at the September election, and Mike Irving, a comrade of Jim's, was empowered to officiate as the executive officer of his court. Last week Jim convened his first court to hear the complaint of Elder Slater, a traveling missionary, who had caused the arrest of Zimri Bowles, a resident of the foothills, upon a charge of stealing the Elder's one-eyed mule. Zimri had been arrested by Irving, the constable, while in the act of easing the descent of the mule down Mad Gun Mountain, with his lariet fastened to the tail of the mule. The proof against Zimri was conclusive. Accordingly the Justice, after much legal periphrasis, proceeded to sentence Zimri to one year's confinement in the Territorial Penitentiary, which sentence he concluded as follows: "An' now, Zim, seein' as I'm about out of things to eat, an' as you will have the cost to pay, I reckon you'd better take a turn among the foot-hills with your rifle an' see if you can't pick up some meat before night, as you can't start for the Big Cañon before mornin'." Which marketing duty was performed by Zim, bringing in one black-tail fawn and a rabbit within the time prescribed as a postscript to the sentence. On the following morning the constable, mounted upon his broncho, accompanied by the prisoner, astide of the mule which the Elder had kindly loaned him, started through the mountains for the penitentiary. Zimri was arrested the second day out, their animals loaded with a deer, two antelope and a small cinnamon bear, which they sold to the warden of the prison. After dividing the money the constable proceeded to hand over Zimri on the following mittimus, which is carefully preserved, and may be seen in the possession of the warden: "To the head man of the Colorado prison, down at the foot of the Big Cañon on the Arkansas. Take Notice:—Zimri Bowles comes with this here, Stole Elder Slater's one-eyed mule, and it was all the mule the Elder had, and I sentenced Zim officially to one year in the Colorado prison, and hated to do it, seein' as Zim once stood by me like a man when the Injuns had me in a tight place, and after I sentenced Zim to one year for stealing the Elder's mule, my wife, Lizzy, who is a kind of tender hearted critter, came and leaned her arm on my shoulder an' says she, 'Father, don't forget the time when Zim, with his rifle, covered our cabin from Granite Mountain an' saved us from the Arapahoes, an' father I have heard you tell that after you were wounded at Sand Creek, an' helpless, it was Zimri's rifle that baited the Indian that was creeping in the grass to scalp you.' An' then there was a tear splash fell upon the sentence an' I changed my mind suddenly as follows: Seein' as the mule had but one eye, and ain't worth more'n half a mule at that, you can let Zim go at about six months, an' sooner if the Injuns should get ugly, an' furthermore, if the Elder should quiet down an' give in any time, I will pardon Zim out instanter."

Witness my official hand and seal. JAMES PARKER, J. P., in blue Lizard Gulch, El Paso Co., in the Territory. The warden, after informing the constable that he would not receive the prisoner upon the commitment offered, proceeded to explain that he should have given a bond in the sum of about \$300 to appear at the District Court. Accordingly the constable withdrew with his prisoner, when it was agreed between them that Zimri should give the constable his bond for the amount mentioned by the warden. This was accomplished by Zimri subscribing his name to an old receipt book calling for \$300, found among the papers transmitted to the constable by his predecessor. Then, as the constable intended returning by way of Spring Mountain, to examine a bear den, which he had seen a couple of miles playing last spring, he gave the bond to Zimri to take back to the Justice. But Zimri, while on his return, traded the \$300 bond to a mountain squatter, just in from Missouri, for a horse, saddle and bridle, and the prisoner is believed to be at this time a dashing hunter on the plains.

The Warsaw of To-day. What shall I say about this bright, cheery city of Warsaw—the home of the Pole, the old stamping-ground of liberty, of free inquiry, here in Northern Europe; from whose fountains the Kosciuskos and the Paalskis drank, and poured out bold like water that men might be free. Whatever may have been your sufferings in the past, whatever may have been the measure of your blood given for real or fancied rights—and the measure has been great—you are to-day a prosperous and handsome city of three hundred thousand inhabitants; your bridge across the Vistula, two thousand feet in length, standing upon five beautiful stone buttresses, built so staunchly of iron, wide as a street, with broad and liberal sidewalks, over which the heaviest teams drive at full speed without a jar, is a monument both to your enterprise, your growth and your mechanical skill! The excellence and cleanliness of your streets (being kept constantly swept) attest to your good municipal regulations! The number and extent of your public squares and parks, the grandeur of the trees which they contain, the exquisite order, bespeak the taste and public munificence of your people! Your numerous palaces and public buildings, belonging to both Church and State, impart an air of grandeur to your city; while many superb private structures, both for business and residences, show your prosperity and wealth!

AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY-EIGHT DAYS.—Julius Verne's delightful romance entitled: "A Tour of the World in Eighty Days," a substantial basis of fact to give it additional interest. The *United States Mail*, a journal devoted to postal matters, tells of a gentleman residing in the suburbs of New York, who recently made an experiment in a view to ascertain how long it takes a letter to travel round the world. He then directed a letter to the United States Postal agent at Yokohama, Japan, marked it "via Brindis," and dispatched the same by steamer leaving New York for Southampton, England, on the 18th of May last. The letter inclosed an address to himself, at New York, which he requested the postal agent at Yokohama to forward to the United States, via San Francisco, by first steamer. The letter arrived in England on May 24th, and was then dispatched by way of Brindis, Aden (via Suez), Ceylon, Singapore, and Hong Kong to Yokohama, arriving there July 11th. From there the enclosed letter (addressed to the writer) was forwarded by steamer leaving Yokohama on July 12, and arrived at San Francisco July 31; left San Francisco August 1st, and reached New York August 28th, having accomplished its circumferential journey in exactly 88 days.

C. N. BOWIE.

Williams B others.

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