WIT AND HUMOR.

The drinker of wormwood soon becomes absinthe-minded.

"Your language is wholly uncalled for," as the publisher told the author whose works failed to sell.

Don't leave off your gums.—New Haven *Register*. No, indeed; you may need them to fit new teeth to.

This is an age of universal deceit, even the honest old farmer is often guilty of watering his stock.—*Chicago Eye.*

"I am going to run for State Treasurer," said a politician to an acquaintance. "That is unnecessary," the acquaintance replied; "wait until you're elected, and then do your running."

The reason why woman cannot succeed as well as man in the walks of life is because, when she is on the walks, one hand is usually employed in holding up her dress.

Heard in a bric-a-brac store: Customer—"Have you any more Louis XIV. furniture?" New clerk—"No, madame—not just now. The men in our factory are on a strike."

A blind man, for fifty years occupant of a Connecticut almshouse, has such a remarkable memory that he can repeat any sermon he hears almost word for word. There are some afflictions before which common humanity stands aghast.

A young man should always want to see himself as others see him, and in doing so he will find that his ears never seem so big as they do in spring time after he has had his hair cut for warm weather.

A dispatch announces that a western station agent is missing, and although the human eye is susceptible of great education, yet it requires a struggle to keep from reading it "treasurer" instead of agent.

Mamma—"Why are you always beating your doll? That isn't nice." Elsa—"Yes, it is. I must beat the doll, because I don't want papa to tell me, as he always tells you, that I am spoiling my children."

"Why don't you eat like you do at home?" said the rural bridegroom to his bride, at St. Nicholas table d'hote, as she nibbled this and tasted that in her embarrassment; "them folks over there don't pay no more'n we do, and you are a goose to be afraid."

Deaths by violence average about 40,000 a year in Russia, there being an average of ten murders a day. About 1,250 are frozen to death every year. And yet with all these advantages, Russian newspapers are stupid.—*Boston Post.*

A North Carolina woman, aged 54, has just begun to learn to read. Probably she was informed by an enemy that her name was in one of the local papers. When a woman's curiosity is once aroused there is no telling what she'll do in order to gratify it.

Ex-Secretary Evarts has thirteen daughters. It is reported that he never locks the front door Sunday nights until after 12 o'clock, and even then he lies awake an hour worrying for fear there may be a stray couple in the dining-room which he has overlooked.

It is alleged that Socrates said that a man should get drunk once a month, but that he should lock himself in his chamber, and drink good wine. This seems to be a very good idea, and if Socrates were not dead at present, we might suggest that we would provide the chamber if he would furnish the wine.

Small boy of eight (looking over picture book with boy of ten)—What's that? S. b. of ten—Why, don't you know? That's a donkey, haven't you ever seen a donkey? S. b. of eight (doubtfully)—No. S. b. of ten (patronizingly)—Why I have—lots of 'em—in the theological gardens, you know.

A Cincinnati man, caught in the belting and whirled around at the rate of a mile in about two minutes, was rescued uninjured. When asked if he wasn't terribly frightened, he answered: "No; I thought my wife had caught me and was running me out by the back of the neck."

A household journal says "soapsuds is not the best wash for silverware." This is important if true; but what the "society" young man wants to know is how to polish up a dollar store diamond pin so that it will look like a gem of the first water.—*Norristown Herald.*

A sermon: "Looker yer, now, Mr. Johnsing, dat's gone 'bout far enough. You say you doan' go to church 'cause dem seats hu'ts yo' back. Howsomever you'll set heah all day Sunday on dese hard rocks en fish. I carn't see de argyment in dat. So you'd better drap dat pole and come to church longer wid me. You heah?"

"Boss," said a negro butcher to an occasional customer, "lemme 'vise yer not ter buy no moah meat down ter Red's shop, 'case fur one reason. De udder day, a man fotch in five hogs what had died wid de cholera, an' dat nigger bought two ob 'em." "The scoundrel! What became of the other three?" "Why, boss, ter keep anybody else from buyin' 'em I bought 'em myself, sah."—*Arkansas Traveler.*

Clarence Fitz-Herbert sends us a beautiful poem beginning "I will wait for my love at heavven's gate." We think you are about right, Clarence. People who write that kind of poetry seldom get any further than the gate. You'll probably continue to wait there long after the rest of us have passed on inside unless you reform and quit writing poetry and learn to spell heaven with one v.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

"Sonny, you will please stoop down and pick up my glasses? You see I can't bend very well," said a corpulent gentleman to a passing newsboy. "Yes, I see you can't mister," said the boy, picking up the glasses; "you're hunch-backed in the wrong spot for convenience, ain't yer? You could forgit to put some of your garments on in the morning and not know anything 'bout it, far's observation goes, couldn't yer?"

The discipline of the German army is almost, if not quite, perfect. It is never relaxed under any circumstances. A captain and a lieutenant were on the deck of a steamship out at sea for the first time. "How do you feel, Lieutenant?" asked the captain. "Very sick, Captain." "Why don't you use a basin?" asked the captain. "I would have done so long ago, Captain, but I was waiting for you to be sick first. I would be court martialed if I were to take precedence of my ranking officer. Will you be pleased to be sick first, Captain."

A prudent housewife informed her husband one night that she wanted a small rug, and that he must buy it because she didn't look fit to go out. "But on no account," said she, "must you pay more than $2 for a rug worth $3; and if you don't find it in one place go to another." "All right," said the good man, "I'll take half a day off to-morrow." The following morning he notified his employer that he wanted half a day off, because there was sickness in the family, hoping by means of the falsehood that his wages would not be docked. He excused himself to himself for the lie, saying, "If I don't get that rug there will be serious sickness in the family." He succeeded in obtaining the desired article for $1.99, and on the following Saturday his employer deducted $2 from his earnings.

A merchant in Paris lost his pocketbook, containing 9,000 francs in bank notes. He immediately advertised, offering a reward of 1,000 francs to the finder. The following day a stranger brought him his pocketbook, together with the nine bank notes! The delighted merchant took out one of the notes to give it to the man as his reward. But the latter asked him, if it made no difference, to let him have the money in smaller sums, as, being a poor man, he might have some difficulty in procuring change for so large an amount. The merchant, glad to get his lost money back again, willingly consented, and the honest finder took his departure. Some time later, when the merchant wanted to change one of the notes, it turned out to be forged, as were also the eight others; so that he had now lost 10,000 francs, instead of 9,000.

Adding to Arable Soil.

The welcome news has been published that an artesian well, not far from Denver, has succeeded in reaching water. Should this news be true, it is of immense moment to the people of the United States. For it renders it possible to make arable land of millions and millions of acres of soil which is now waterless, or which has but a small downfall of rain in a short period of the year. It is the peculiarity of our western deserts that a very little water makes them amazingly fruitful. It now seems as if the time is coming when all the deserts of the earth will be rendered useful to man. The French Engineers have for years past been steadily at work reclaiming the Desert of Sahara by means of artesian wells. A great number of these have been sunk along the western border, 150 of which are in the province of Constantine, and they are progressing steadily towards the interior of the desert. M. Jus, who has for twenty years superintended these magnificent works, has recently reported on this interesting topic, and among the curious phenomena he notices, is the finding of fishes and crabs in these waters at very great depths. He says the crabs, when cooked, have a delicious flavor. It is clear the world will not have to pay heed to the dreadful forebodings of Malthus for many years to come, for the reclaiming of deserts by artesian wells would furnish soil to supply food for hundreds of millions of people. Some day no doubt human ingenuity and industry will find some means of utilizing rocky soils. Perhaps stones and boulders may be crushed, and proper chemicals added to make new soil in stony places. And so in time it may come to pass that a mold may cover the granite hills of New England which will be as fertile as the rich river bottoms of the West. The earth is capable of supporting twenty times the number of its present inhabitants. It is said if Ireland were as populous relatively as the Island of Guernsey, it would contain 40,000,000 of people. That it is not equally fruitful and prosperous is because of perverse human institutions in the way of wicked landlaws.—*Demorest's Monthly for March.*

He Wanted A Puff.

"Say, mister, gi's a puff?" demanded a ragged urchin, as he stood scratching his head and eying the city editor.

"What do you want of a puff?" growled the city editor. "Who are you and what have you got to puff?"

"We got a Passion Play in a lot up yander! Say, mister, gi's a puff?"

"Are you Salmi Morse?" asked the city editor, with a grin.

"No, you bet your life! I'm Judas Iscariot. Patsey Daily is Salmi, and my part is to bust him in the ear! Gi's a puff?"

"Look here!" exclaimed the city editor. "Do you know what the Passion Play is?"

"Well, you bet! Me and Dolan and Hogan is Jews, and Daily comes in with a show. Feely is the Mayor of the Jews, and he allows that the show can't go on. Then Daily says he'll show or he'll bust the business, and then we crucify him. Oh, we're onto the passion racket! Gi's a puff?"

"Have you played it yet?" inquired the city editor.

"Of course! we bin playin' it for a week. The gentiles comes and crawls under the tent, and we crucify 'em right along! Just now we are short o' Gentiles, on account o' lickin' most o' them until they can't get around any more!"

"How do you do your crucifying?" asked the mystified city editor.

"Slug 'em!" replied the boot black. "When we see a head comin' under we bust it with a club! When there ain't any more heads we go to work on Daily! This week I'm Salmi, and you bet yer life they've got to have some pretty stout Jews!"

"What do you want me to do?"

"Gi's a puff! Say as how we're workin' the racket, and anybody as thinks he can play Gentile and git under that canvas is welcome to a free seat if he gits through! What we want is for the Mayor to interfere. That's our lay fer next week! Put it up good and I'll give you a ticket."

"All right," assented the city editor. I'll give you a puff. Send me a box and I'll see you through."

And the representative American, who, even at his early age recognized the advantages of advertising, ducked his acknowledgments and scuttled out. —*Brooklyn Eagle.*

Irresistibly Ludicrous.

One of those things happened at the National Theatre the other night which most papers are too dignified to mention, but which everybody likes to talk about. It was during the last act of "Mother and Son," and Janauschek, with one other person, was holding the stage. It was a situation of some suspense, and the house was perfectly still. There was a pause, too, in the dialogue, so that on the stage also there happened to be complete stillness.

Just at that moment a man in the parquette blew his nose. It was not a violent, savage blast, but a long, sonorous, luxurious blow, such as the horns that marched around Jericho might have given on the seventh round, in the serene confidence that the walls would come down promptly. The effect was irresistibly ludicrous. The audience, in their respect for the actors and their interest in the play, struggled bravely to preserve a good demeanor, but it was no use. A wave of half-suppressed laughter ran over the house, and many who succeeded in keeping silence fairly shook.

On the stage the situation was still worse. Even Janauschek's tragic gravity was disturbed. Her face twitched again and again in the effort to control herself, and she was glad to use the handkerchief she had in her hand to cover her confusion. For a moment it looked as if an emotional scene would be dissolved in a broad laugh, but the actors struggled on with the dialogue, and, after a few minutes, the play resumed its hold on the audience. For the man, or rather the nose, it was a successful debut.—*Washington Correspondent New York Tribune.*

The Humors of Divorce.

Before the present divorce court, with its especial judge, was established—which is in the memory of many people—the London divorce suits, says *Vanity Fair*, were brought before a committee of the house of Lords, of which Lord Penzance was the president. A lady well known in the fashionable world at that time was heard to say to a relation of Lady Penzance: "How I envy Lady Penzance! I wish that I were in her place." "Why?" exclaimed her listener, a good deal astonished at this wish. "Oh," replied the lady, "because she must hear so many delightfully-interesting stories!"

Fromentin As a Painter of Horses.

Henry Eckford's interesting illustrated article in the *Century*, on "Eugene Fromentin," describes as follows his method of studying the motion of horses:

The biography states that Fromentin was never satisfied with himself in regard to an animal seldom absent from his pictures, and which certainly adds a great charm to the scenes. The beauty and movement of the Arabian horses were studied incessantly. He was always watching them in Algiers; he owned several in France. One of his fellow-painters has said that Fromentin drew horses much oftener and much better from memory or intuition than from life. M. Gonse insinuates that he did them better from *chic*, a word that has almost always a slightly disparaging meaning, since it refers to work done quickly, off-hand, without recourse to models. Lack of early drill in the profession is the explanation. Writing to a friend, Fromentin mentioned his attempt to master the drawing of horses: "You know I had 'Euloge' and an Arab horse. I have used both, unfortunately without much system, learning everything and studying nothing really to the bottom; so that, after I have worked very, very hard, I am not in the least pleased with myself. I am no further along in the exact knowledge of my animal. I have scarcely begun, not to render a horse, but to comprehend his proportions; as for the knowledge of details most necessary to merely build him up, I am as ignorant of that as possible. Possibly the only use of the many studies and sketches which I bring back is the change I have made in the air and in my studio, and the fact that I have had at Paris, under my eyes, in order to support and guide me, something which recalls nature a little bit." He used to have his horses led and ridden up and down before him in the hope of seizing the secret of their motion. Luckily for Fromentin, the photographic secret of the motion of the horse was not yet published when he died. Had he seen the distorted legs of trotters as the instantaneous photograph faithfully report them, and had he heard the chorus of wiseacres applauding these curiosities for the good effect they are expected to have on art, it is likely that he would not have waited till 1876 to die.

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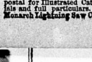

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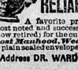

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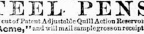

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