

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE CROPS AT THE WEST.—We learn from the *Philadelphia Ledger* that in several of the heavy grain States in the Union the wheat crop is in a most promising condition. Towards the Southwest, serious apprehensions were felt on account of the threatened droughts, but the late abundant rains dispelled all fears upon this point. In New York, while there is much variation in the appearance of the crops, some of the roots having been winter-killed, both grain and grass promise a full average yield. Corn planting is still progressing. The breadth of barley sown is believed to be quite large, in proportion to other crops, on account of the increased manufacture of malt liquors. It is expected, that apples and peaches will be produced abundantly. In Pennsylvania, the general accounts are that there is a present prospect of large crops. The season is backward, but that is said to be favourable to the wheat, which was sown in immense quantities last fall. The peach crop is considered a total failure, but apples promise abundance. New Jersey crops favorable. In New England, the season is backward, and any opinion yet formed as to the fate of the crops is liable to mistake. On the whole, the prospects are regarded as favourable.

Cattle from beyond the Mississippi have lately been conveyed to the New York market by railway. They were reared near Council Bluffs in Iowa, driven afoot to Devonport, there placed aboard the railroad cars and carried across the Mississippi on the new railroad bridge to Rock Island. There is no doubt abundance of fine grazing land west of the Mississippi on which cattle might be reared to supply the great demand in the Atlantic States and cities. The Western States are now our principal source of supply for cattle. Last week some 250 head from Illinois were sold in the Philadelphia markets.

Henry Hertz, one of the persons made notorious by connection with the British enlistment difficulty has been tried in Philadelphia on the charge of stealing a promissory note. The jury twice came into court stating that they could not agree, but the judge insisted on a verdict and they finally rendered a verdict of "not guilty."

HORRIBLE TRAGEDIES IN NEW ORLEANS.—The *New Orleans Bulletin* relates the particulars of two bloody tragedies which occurred in that city on the 14th ult. Michael Higgins, a clerk in a cotton house, went home on Saturday night intoxicated and finding his wife in bed ordered her to get up and get him some water, or he would kill her. She sprang up alarmed and rushed out of doors. He immediately seized a gun and fired, the lead entering his wife's abdomen, wounding her in a horrid manner, and killing her. She was only twenty-one years old. The other tragedy occurred between Edward Wisely, Capt. Joseph Gibson, and the wife of Gibson. Wisely had been in the habit of going to the house of Gibson to see a negro, which gave offence to Captain Gibson, and ill-feeling had been engendered between them. On Saturday evening, Capt. Gibson was at the house of Mr. Marvel, when Wisely came in and Gibson proposed to drop past difficulties, but Wisely refused. Gibson remained so late that his wife came after him. As they were returning home, Wisely followed and made an attack upon Capt. Gibson with a bowie knife and cut both his arms. Mrs. Gibson instantly sprang between her husband and Wisely, when the latter plunged his huge bowie knife into her abdomen, inflicting what is pronounced a mortal wound. Captain Gibson instantly drew a dirk and stabbed Wisely to the heart, and he fell a corpse. Wisely was 27 years old a native of Ireland and a blacksmith. Captain Wilson offered to give himself up, but nobody was disposed to arrest or accuse him of any crime.

WEST INDIES.

Late advices from the West Indies, by way of Bermuda, state that sugar was selling at high rates at Porto Rico. Admiral Elliot has resigned the Governorship of Trinidad, and was succeeded by the Governor of Grenada. He was, in turn, replaced by the governor of St. Lucia.

Our correspondent at Barbadoes, writing on the 12th inst., says:—"The weather has continued very fine and favorable for sugar making, the season for which has nearly drawn to a close. The products of the island will exceed an average yield. Flour, bread, beef, pork, fish, lard and corn are scarce and high, owing to the non-arrival of American vessels; but I fear when they do come, the market will get glutted. The threatened war with Mexico, which is now inevitable, will, it is thought here, destroy the republic of Mexico, which will become a kingdom in less than two years, as a vice-royalty of Spain."

The Militia force of England is not to be dissolved, but only "disembodied." The strength of these "national guards" is 130,000, and they are to be called out every year for regular training; and, in case of any future emergency, England will thus have at command a powerful army of reserve and not be henceforth in danger of being caught unprepared for war as she was found in 1854. The regular army will henceforth consist, in time of peace, of 140,000 men, consisting of 9000 Cavalry, 20,000 Artillery, 7000 Guards, and 93,000 Infantry of the Line of which 40 Regiments will be quartered in the United Kingdom.

FRANCE.—Napoleon is taking steps to have the Empress appointed Regent for her son. A project of law on the subject has been sent to the Senate, and debated with closed doors. The project proposes on the Emperor's demise, the Empress should reign, assisted by a Council of Regency, whose names the Emperor will leave under sealed envelopes. Meanwhile the Governments papers are writing up the project.

Letters from Paris, 21st, state that the *Moniteur* contains a decree ordering the creation of a general system of inspection of the Army and Commissariat, by a special staff established for that purpose. The *Moniteur* also gives the project of the Senate's Committee on the Regency.—It states that the Emperor is to attain his majority at 18 years of age, the Empress mother to be the Regent and guardian of her son during his minority, but not to contract second marriage while it continues. In case of the Empress's death, the Regency to pass to the senior Prince of France, then to the other Princes in order of hereditary succession and failing then, all to the Council of Regency appointed by the Senate.

CARDINAL PATRIZI, the Papal legate, has brought with him, as a present for the baby a fragment of our Saviour's cradle, studded with diamonds; and a golden rose for the Empress.

AGITATED STATE OF ITALY.—Our accounts from Italy represent the whole country as still in a state of agitation that threatens the peace of Europe. The Adversary Governments there pretend to dread an immediate outbreak, and assert that Mazzini and his agents have everything ready for a favourable moment. There is no doubt that the Neapolitan Government is about immediately to issue the promised resumption of the charges brought against it. Some modifications to be made in the Neapolitan Administration will be vanquished, but they will be in reality of a moderate nature.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY IN A FISH.—A few days since a woman was cleaning a haddock in South Shields. She found two gold ear-rings inside of it. How they got there is one of the mysteries of the ocean. The fish was caught by line, five or six miles off the Northumberland coast.

"PEELING" THE JEWS.—A letter from St. Petersburg says:—"A ukase, issued some years ago forbidding Jews of the Eastern Governments to wear robes descending lower than the knee, and women to wear false hair in addition their own, is being carried out with new rigour. The Governors of the provinces of Wilna, Kovno, Grodo, and Minsk, have, in particular, enjoined the local authorities to see strictly to the execution of the ukase."

THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS.—At the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, the President announced the removal of the Pitcairn Islanders to Norfolk Island. Sir Thomas Fremantle stated that he had received information from his brother, Captain Fremantle, to the effect that he had proceeded to the Pitcairn Islands to propose that the Islanders should remove to Norfolk Island, and that having assembled the inhabitants, one hundred and eighty in number and read the proposals to them, they, after much deliberation, resolved to accept with thanks the offer of the British Government, being convinced that their own island was not large enough for them; but stipulated, however, that as they had happily lived without the access of strangers, they might have the exclusive possession of Norfolk Island.

ACTIVITY IN THE U. S. NAVY YARDS.—The *Norfolk News* has the following:—"The Navy Yard in Gosport presents at this time the life of activity and industry not often seen in our public establishments. All our sloops-of-war which have been laid up have been rebuilt, refitted, and equipped for instant service. The steamer *Roscoe* is rapidly approaching completion, and the *Colorado* will be ready for launching in a short time. The *Powhatan* is receiving her new boilers, and will take her armament soon. The zeal is displayed in all our yards and arsenals."

DISCOVERY OF SILVER MINES.—Rich mines of silver ore are stated to have been discovered in Mesilla Valley. We have no doubt, but more rich mines of silver are yet to be discovered in these regions. In the mountains of Northern Texas, rich silver lodes, in all probability, will reward the first adventurous explorers. The mountains belong to the range in which the richest Mexican mines are located.

A RUSSIAN FLEET EXPECTED.—A correspondent, who has undoubtedly received the statement from Alexander himself, says that the United States are to receive this summer a friendly visit from a large Russian naval force, in acknowledgment of our sympathy with that country during the war, and that a round of entertainments will be given on board the ships to the citizens of New York.—*Home Journal*.

CONSUMPTION OF PAPER.—No where is paper so much used as in the United States. In France, with 35,000,000 inhabitants, only 70,000 tons are produced yearly, of which one-seventh is for exportation. In England, with 28,000,000 inhabitants, 65,000 tons are produced; while in this country the amount is nearly as great as in France and England together. A large proportion of this consumption of paper is directed to the 2000 newspapers which are incessantly springing up in all sections of this country.—*Saunders's Salad for the Social*.

INDIA RUBBER BUTTONS.—A style of button for over-coats and general business clothing has been introduced within the last two years, which grows more shiny with age and wear, and in its every quality seems to be an admirable button. It is made from one of the Goodyear varieties of prepared rubber, and a manufactory is now in operation in New Brunswick, which gives employment to some two hundred hands, male and female. The buttons have, until this season, been held at so high a price, as to a great extent to prohibit their introduction; but a material reduction has, we learn, been lately made, which bids fair to render them the standard style for the class of clothing described.

M. Jourdon, a barrister, has been arrested and condemned to four years' imprisonment and 5000 francs' fine, for having sent through the mail, from Brussels to Paris, five copies of a manifesto signed by Kossuth, Mazzini, and Ledru Rollin. Other copies of the same document were smuggled into France in the interior of a lobster.

The ex-king of Oude is on his way down to Calcutta, within a few miles of which he will take up his residence, until his friends have completed the preparations for his voyage to England. It was stated that a company's officer, long resident at Lucknow, has thrown up his commission, and taken service with the ex-monarch, who has paid him down twenty-five thousand pounds, with the promise of a further similar sum, to secure his services in England as interpreter and adviser. His majesty has with him a suite of a thousand men, but it is said, the Government object to his bringing an large number of persons to the neighbourhood of Calcutta. As with the Rans of Negropo, and the Amors of Seinde, the whole of the ex-king's stock of jewelry, horses, &c., has been seized and appropriated by the British authorities.

FATAL DAY FOR KINGS.—A German student of history has detected, that Saturday is the usual day for the decease of the monarchs in England, and adduces the deaths of William III., Queen Anne, George I., George II., George III., George IV., and William IV., which appear all to have occurred on that day of the week.

SYDNEY SMITH ON SWEARING.—Sidney Smith, when travelling in a stage-coach one day long before railroads were dreamed of, was terribly annoyed by a young man, who had acquired the "polite" art of swearing to such an extent that he interlarded his discourse with it, so though it were a constituent part of the language. As there was a lady present, the matter was doubly annoying. After enduring the young man's displays for some time, the "wag wit and wear," as one of his cockney admirers called him, asked permission to tell the company a little anecdote, and thus commenced:—"Once upon a time (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) there was a King of (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) England who, at a grand ball, (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) picked up the Duchess of (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) Shrewsbury's garter (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) and said, 'Honi soit qui mal (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) y pense,' which means in English, 'Evil be to him who (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) evil thinks.' This was the origin of (boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes) the order of the garter."

When Sydney Smith had concluded, the young gentleman said, A very good story, sir—rather old—but what the devil has boots, sugar-tongs, and tinder-boxes to do with it?" "I will tell you, my young friend, when you tell me what 'd—n my eyes, &c., has to do with your conversation. In the meantime, allow me to say, that's my style of swearing."

NEW STEAM LINE TO AMERICA.—A new line of steamers to Halifax via St. John's Newfoundland, has been organized, and is about to be brought into active operation. The first vessel of the line, a powerful screw steamer, is advertised to sail on the 20th August, and will be followed by others each succeeding month. We have only room this week to simply refer to this new undertaking, but may take an early opportunity of pointing out the peculiarities and advantages of the route in greater detail. The Government of Nova Scotia will have the line of railway between Halifax and Windsor completed next spring. Passengers and freight can then be conveyed from Halifax to St. John, New Brunswick, in a few hours. Arrangements are also being made in Canada with the Grand Trunk Railway Company to ticket passengers and freight both ways between Liverpool and Canada.

The *Aylmer Times*, Ottawa, C. E., says Fyler (who murdered his wife.) was to pay \$4,000 to his Council if they got him clear! They put in the plea of insanity and saved him! They sue for the \$4,000, and he pleads insanity! Who shows the weakest mind, Fyler or his lawyers?

NEW ROUTE TO INDIA.—The company for establishing the route to India, by a railway of 80 miles from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates, have issued their prospectus. The capital required is only \$5,000,000, the whole of which will be promptly subscribed. The undertaking will probably be completed within a couple of years, and it is believed that the distance between England, and the East will then be shortened one-half. This will be a quiet revolution, but one of the most important that could take place.

REMEDY FOR MOSQUITO BITES.—Cigar ashes will be found an invaluable remedy for the bite of the mosquito and other insects. Wet the ashes and rub them on the part, and the stinging sensation will be extracted almost instantly. The reason of this is, that ashes contain alkali, which neutralizes the acid of the poison.

BOOK-MAKING.—In an article on book-making in the United States, the Boston *Transcript* says:—"Books have multiplied to such an extent in our country, that it now takes seven hundred and fifty paper mills, with two thousand engines in constant operation, to supply the printers, who work day and night endeavouring to keep their engagements with publishers. These tireless mills produced two hundred and seventy millions of pounds of paper the last year, which immense supply has sold for about twenty-seven million dollars. A pound and a quarter of paper are required for a pound of paper, and four hundred million pounds were therefore consumed in this way last year."