

been a feather in the cap of our expedition, and a good thing for our artist as well. The river was now very low—never saw it so dry; indeed, people could wade from the north bank to my Garden island. This enabled me to see the whole thing plainly, but even now there were 800 feet of waterfall. The columns of vapour were fewer—only two good ones, I think. I could not measure their height—probably over 200 feet. The lips of the fissure at Garden Island, when measured by sextants, were eighty feet; but we could not throw a stone across, so it may be more. Come when you may, you will not be disappointed by the falls of Victoria. We bought canoes at Sinamanes, and dropped down the stream to below Chiconá. Kersale has no impediment, but a basaltic dyke a little below makes it a dangerous rapid for canoes. There is another dangerous rapid for canoes at Mburuma's, but a boat would go through easily. The canoes were but six inches above the water, and easily filled."

VENTILATION OF THE APPLE BARREL.—By this we mean the boring of holes in the head of staves of the barrels that will allow the escape of the moisture that is constantly passing off from the newly gathered fruit. We hazard nothing in the statement that one half the fruit sent to this market this season, so far, has been materially injured from this cause. The effect of confined vapor upon the apple is not at once apparent. The fruit appears uncommonly bright on the first opening—but as the surface dries off the apple begins to grow dull looking, and if a light skinned apple, in day or two will present the appearance of half baked fruit. But this steaming from confinement, not only injures the sale of fruit, but to the great disappointment of the consumer, his fruit does not keep as he supposed it would, and as the variety of apple he purchased led him to suppose it would. Premature decay is soon to follow as a consequence of this want of ventilation.—*Chicago Fruit Dealer.*

HOW TO HANDLE FIREARMS SAFELY.—An old sportsman gives the following advice in reference to the safe handling of percussion guns:—When the gun is charged, never allow the lock to be in any other state than at half cock, except at the moment before firing. The reason why this rule should be adopted and religiously observed are briefly these: the lock is so constructed that when at half cock (provided it is good for anything, and no other should ever be used) it cannot be moved from that point toward the cap to explode it in any possible way. You may strike it violently, and it will not yield until the lock itself breaks in pieces. If, by any accident it is moved in the opposite direction, it must go back until it is fully cocked, and must remain there until the trigger is touched. If it does not go back to that point, it cannot possibly, in returning, pass the point of its first position—that of half cock—unless the trigger is touched at the moment, which would seldom if ever happen.

AN EGG IN A BOTTLE.—To accomplish this seemingly incredible act requires the following preparation. You must take an egg and soak it in vinegar, and in process of time its shell will become quite soft, so that it may be extended lengthwise without breaking; then insert it into the neck of a small white bottle, and upon pouring cold water upon it, it will assume its former figure and hardness. This is really a curiosity, and baffles those who are not in the secret to find out how it is accomplished.

WHAT INFLUENCES OUR CLIMATE.—I cannot omit directing the reader's attention to the influence the far-distant barrier of Central America has upon the climate of great Britain. Supposing your narrow belt of land to be suddenly whelmed by the ocean; then, instead of circuitously winding round the Gulf of Mexico, the heated waters of the equatorial current would naturally flow into the Pacific, and the Gulf stream no longer exist. We should not only lose the benefit of its warm current, but cold polar streams, descending farther to the south, would take its place, and be ultimately driven by the westerly winds against our coasts. Our climate would then resemble that of Newfoundland, and our ports be blocked up during many months by enormous masses of ice. Under these altered circumstances, England would no longer be the grand emporium of trade and industry, and would finally dwindle down from her imperial station to an insignificant dependency of some other country more favored by Nature.—*Hartwig's Sea and its Wonders.*

TO PREVENT FLIES FROM TEAZING HORSES.—Take two or three small handfuls of walnut leaves, upon which pour two or three quarts of soft cold water; let it infuse one night, and pour the whole next morning into a kettle, and let it boil for fifteen minutes. When cold, it will be fit for use. No more is required than to wet a sponge, and before the horse goes out of the stable, let those parts which are most irritated be smeared over with the liquor.

BLISTERED FEET.—A writer says:—"I had for several years two sons at school at Geneva, Switzerland. In their vacations they, in company with their tutor, made excursions through Switzerland, Italy, Germany, &c, on foot; bearing their knapsacks containing their necessary wants for a month. They were provided with a small bar of common brown soap, and before putting on their stockings turned them inside out, and rubbed the soap well into the threads of them; consequently they never became foot sore, or had blistered feet.

THE LABOURER ON THE CONTINENT.—The system of small farms (*la petite culture*) so generally prevalent throughout the Continent, markedly so in France and Belgium, induces a condition of things vastly different from that prevalent in this country; and hence we find that the class of