

THE INVENTOR OF CHAMPAGNE.

To the renowned Royal Monastery of St. Peter's, Hautvilliers, sparkling champagne is said to owe its origin. This monastery formerly gave, says its historian, nine Archbishops to the see of Rheims, and twenty-two Abbots to various celebrated monasteries. One of these monks (Benedictines), Father Perignon, who died in 1715 has the reputation of being the first to gather the wines from various districts to mix and make them sparkling. Before this period champagne was in good repute, but it is not probable that the scientific treatment requisite to produce what is known as champagne was understood prior to the last century. We have it on record that in 1357 Vincesilans, King of Bohemia, on coming to France to negotiate a treaty with Charles VI., arrived at Rheims, and tasting for the first time the wine of Champagne, spun out his diplomatic errand to the latest possible moment, and then gave up all that was required of him in order to prolong his stay, getting intoxicated on champagne daily before dinner. And we learn likewise that among the potentates of Europe who were partial to this wine was our own Henry the VIII, who had a vineyard at Ay, where he kept a Superintendent in order to secure the genuine production for his table. Mention is also made of Francis I., Pope Leo X., and Charles V., of Spain as reserving to their use vineyards in Champagne. The celebrity of this wine is not of modern date. But it is to the jolly monk Dom Perignon we are indebted for the enlivening qualities for which it is now so popular. He was chosen procureur of the great Abbey for the purity of his taste, and the soundness of his head and devotion to his occupation, does not appear to have shortened his days, for he lived to the ripe old age of four score years. His chief duty was to take charge of the vineyards (of which the monastery possessed the broadest and most favourably situated in the whole country) to receive from the neighbouring cultivators the tithes of the wines they made (their due to the spiritual lords of the abbey), to press the grapes from the monastic vineyards, and blended this wine with those that had come as tithes. "In the decline of life, Father Perignon," says an old chronicler, "being blind ordered the grapes of different vineyards to be brought before him, recognized each kind by the taste and said 'you must marry (mix) the wine of this grape with that of another.' In the course of his wine mixings and blending of one quality with another Dom Perignon who had already by his skill raised the wine of the holy fathers of the monastery to the greatest perfection, discovered the process of making the wine effervescent, and as it was utterly impossible to keep it in this condition by the old process of a bit of wool steeped in oil which was the only stopper then in use, he further added to his celebrity by the employment of the cork which he secured with a string.—*Champagne—Its History, Manufacture, Properties, &c. By Charles Tovey.*

The Rev. Dr. King, an Irishman himself, is lecturing in Washington, in behalf of the British Government, claiming that Ireland has no cause for discontent, that the British Government is the best in Europe, and secures to all Irishmen perfect civil and religious liberty, with impartial administration of the law. He reminds them that he is as good an Irish patriot as any that lives, and, as such, make these declarations.

SILVER ISLAND.

THE SILVER ISLAND IN LAKE SUPERIOR—RICH RETURNS FOR MINING.

(From the Detroit Post)

It is but little over 30 years since the Upper Peninsula was given to Michigan as the sequel of a dispute and as a kind of make weight. It was given to, and accepted by, as a mere barter, an article of little value. Now we have become alive to the fact that there is not a more wonderful, a more beautiful, or a richer region within the National domain.

It has been found to contain ores of an equalled, and almost incredible, richness, producing iron unsurpassed in quality, and copper, both native and in the ore, in abundance and value found nowhere else. Last year, 1,000,000 tons of iron and ore were exported from that region, and 20,000 tons of copper. To procure these metals mines have been sunk one-third of a mile into the earth. Silver has always been found, more or less mixed with the copper of those mines, and in quantities that, in countries where labor was cheaper would have made its search a speciality. But here no attention is paid to enterprises except such as in other countries would appear to be fabulously remunerative. Lately, however, a silver mine yielding such rich indications as to force the attention of the most skeptical has been discovered on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Sailing northwest and by north from Keweenaw Point for about 55 miles we reach a strait two miles wide between the mountainous and romantic "Isle Royale" and the smaller islets called "Passage Island." This strait passed, we sheer west northwest 25 miles and we are under Thunder Cape, a bold promontory at the east entrance of Thunder Bay, and in the British possessions.

This cape towered in rugged grandeur 3000 feet above the level of the lake, looks a fitting seat from which the Olympian Jove might guard with his thunderbolts the entrance to the bay, or launch them at the daring intruder who should disturb the silver treasures at his feet.

Five miles northeast from the cape, and 3000 feet from the main land is "Silver Islet." It is of a rounded, irregular shape, about 75 feet in diameter, and rising not four feet above the level of the lake; when still, and washed over by the waves in storms. It is destitute of vegetation, and to the unscientific eye appears to be of quartz rock merely.

Between Silver Islet and the mainland lies Barret Island, about half a mile in length and 400 feet in width, and clothed with trees and bushes. On this island a dock has been built.

Both islands and their submerged parts, or reefs, extend from northeast to southwest, the points opposite having bold shores. Fort William is inside of Thunder Bay, and 20 miles distant. "Prince Arthur's Landing," where the Manitoba volunteers landed last summer, is five miles east of Fort William, and the silver mining operations of Mr. Berk are 12 miles further still. Silver mining operations were commenced at Silver Island, last September. The shaft, or drift, is of course partly below the level of the lake, and is from 8 to 12 feet in diameter. Breakwaters and cribs had to be erected, as well to ward off the heavy surf that frequent storms send over the island as to keep out the waters of the lake at their usual level. About 80 tons of ore have gone forward to

the smelting works in New Jersey, as the result of six weeks or two months' operations, and about 50 tons more are now ready for shipment. The ore smelted has yielded about \$1,700 currency per ton, whilst the richest mines of Mexico do not exceed \$350 per ton.

Before the bombardment of Paris was an accomplished fact the London *Globe* published the following calculations showing that it was within the power of the Germans to do it: "The Prussian heavy breech loading 8½ inch rifled gun throws a common shell of about 210 lbs., with a maximum charge of 37½ lbs. of prismatic powder. Let us suppose a battery of these guns to be established on the high ground to the left of Vitry, within about 3,000 yards of Fort Bicêtre. At ten degrees elevation this battery would all but reach the *enceinte*, at 15 degrees it would throw shells to the Boulevard d'Italie; at 25 degrees its projectiles would fall into the Jardin du Luxembourg; while at 33 degrees they might be expected to reach the Louvre a distance of about 9,500 yards. The battery would however run the risk of being knocked to pieces by Forts Bicêtre, de Montrouge, d'Ivry, de Charanton. The Prussians may, however bring up some 9½ inch breech loading guns throwing a common shell of 300 lbs. with a maximum charge of 53 lbs. of prismatic powder. At 33 degrees this gun would range about 10,000 yards, that is to say it would throw a shell to Notre Dame from the Railway station at Sceaux. Paris therefore can be bombarded. Whether it will be or not, or whether the bombardment will be effective, is another question. If the Germans bring up their heaviest guns and fire with battering charges the projectiles will range in round numbers as follows: At 10 degrees, 4,400 yards; at 15 degrees, 6,000 yards; at 20 degrees, 7,300 yards; and the highest effective elevation, or 33 degrees, 9,500 yards. Those of our readers who possess maps of the city of Paris, may now measure off these distances with a scale, and so judge for themselves whether the Prussian batteries could be established at a safe distance from the forts. An ordinary carriage can be depended on up to 10 degrees elevation, when however, much higher elevations are used, it becomes necessary to make special arrangements, and in this exists one of the principle difficulties of bombarding at very long ranges.

There are some people who would not only destroy all wickedness in the world, but almost all goodness, when it does not make its appearance under the form or with the sanction of their own particular opinions.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The CIVIL SERVICE GAZETTE remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which in any save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 4lb., 1lb., and 1lb tin-lined packets, labelled JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, England.