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August.

The bright sunshine characteristic of our summer, and so uncomfortable while it lasts, has its advantages. We would not willingly exchange it for the milder skies of Britain, with her greener fields, and boundless corn-crops. Our sunshine is as golden to the farmer as to the poet's vision. To him it is a real Midas, changing everything it touches into gold. These few weeks of extreme heat give us many of the advantages of the tropics, without their evils. Our great cereal crop is of southern origin, and is only made a success by the torrid heats of July and August. It luxuriates in the sunshine, when the thermometer points to a hundred, and bears drought better than any other of our crops. It is often a failure in the northern belt, where it is cultivated, from the want of a single week of hot weather. It may drop at midday, but it grows apice at night, when heat drives sleep from the farmer's pillow. The fierce burning days, then, mean great crops of Indian corn. The bright rays are transmuted into the golden grain, and when sold become the real gold in the farmer's purse. Our country is the Paradise of the plant, and can hardly comprehend the magnitude of the corn-crop. It is easy to sow a thousand million of bushels, but difficult to take in the conception of so vast a bulk. It is nearly a bushel for every inhabitant of the globe, and thirty bushels to every one of our population. What countless stores of food for man and beast are showered upon us in the sunlight! The crop this year, well sold, would pay the year's expenses for our great war. These hot days also mean melons, one of Nature's beautiful provisions to slake the thirst of scorched lips, and cool the fevered blood. They form a much more healthful dessert than pines and are quite as well relished.

How to make Parchment Paper.

Paper resembling parchment in appearance, and possessing some of its qualities, is now manufactured in England from common white paper. The way to make it is described as follows, by Dr. Lyon Playfair, F. R. S., Professor of Chemistry in Edinburgh:—

It is made by a very simple process. Ordinary water-laid paper, as it is called, that is, common white blotting paper, for you know it better by that name—is simply dipped into diluted sulphuric acid; but the dilution must be exact. If you err on either side, even within very small limits of error, you get a waste product and not parchment paper. If your acid be too weak, you convert the paper into a gum; and if the acid be too strong you corrode the paper, and do not get what you desire. In order to produce this beautiful parchment paper, you must take exactly two measures of strong oil of vitriol—sulphuric acid—and one measure of water, and mix them together. They first become heated and you allow them to cool; and after they have cooled to the ordinary temperature they are ready for use. Nothing is more simple. The best paper for this purpose is that which has been well pulped, or well disengaged in the making. The conversion of it into parchment paper is an exceedingly simple operation. I now place it in a vessel in which I take away the acid, and there is the parchment paper completed, so that you see nothing is more easy. What have I done? Although I have effected such a transformation in the paper that it is now much stronger than it was before, we have added actually nothing to it. The acid has not entered into its composition. It is the same weight after it has dried as it was before. It is simply a molecular change which has occurred in the character of the paper, the pores of the water-laid having become closed and it is now repellent of water. It is a semi-transparent body with great elasticity. You can bend it backwards and forwards without cracking, and the strength of it is much increased. It is repellent of water, but it allows some fluids to pass by a process of diffusion and when it is stretched upon a sort of drum, or a sieve frame, or wooden circle, it forms an instrument which, in the hands of the Master of the Mint, has produced that elegant process of separation—diffusive analysis, which he has called "Dialysis." The strength of the paper is so much increased by this operation, or simply subjecting it to the action of the acid, that a strip of paper which requires sixteen pounds weight to break it when it is in the state of the material, requires seventy-five pounds to break it after it has passed into the other state.

This property of sulphuric acid with regard to paper was discovered in 1824 by Mr. Guine; but it was not until some years after that Mr. De la Rive, by extensive experiments, was enabled to form parchment paper as a commercial article, and it is now used for a great many purposes. There are some deeds written upon it. And it is now extensively employed by ladies for covering

preserve jars, and is used for a great many other useful purposes.

FROM THE STATES.

BANKRUPT, August 11. Gen. Banks attacked their advance guard of fifteen thousand on Saturday. The battle lasted all day—mostly artillery. Jackson and Ewell crossed the Rapidan.

Genl. Pope and McDowell came up in evening with part of the latter's command.

Large reinforcements under Gen. Hill reached enemy about the same time. Loss two or three thousand killed, wounded and missing on each side.

Banks held his ground. Renewal of fight expected.

A Confederate despatch announces the destruction of the ram Arkansas. Leaving Vicksburg to attack Baton Rouge, her machinery becoming disabled, she was attacked by Federal gunboats. Crew abandoned and exploded her.

Porter's guerrillas in action near Kirksville with Col. McNeill, left 130 dead on the field. Reported that two thousand have deserted and scattered. The balance one thousand, rapidly reducing.

Barque Reinhardt reports British steamship Scotia, with cargo of arms, sailing from Barbados for Nassau. Ran up Confederate flag on leaving harbor.

Port Royal advices state that gunboat Madilla captured British steamer Gadon attempting to run the blockade with heavy cargo.

Accounts from Culpepper represent enemy's force in late battle 20,000, and Federal, exclusive of cavalry and artillery, 7,000. Bah!

War Department issued stringent orders to prevent escaping draft.

Golden Gate's treasure probably lost.

August 12. Col. McNeill again overtook Porter's guerrillas in Missouri on Saturday, routing and scattering them.

Confederates sent flag of truce to Pope yesterday, asking permission to bury the dead, thus showing that in spite of superior numbers, our falling back on Sunday was from necessity.

Confederate Gen. Winder reported killed.

Federal Gen. Geary severely wounded.

A number of sail boats were captured down the Potomac, trading with enemy.

War Department orders to prevent evasion of impending draft being carried out throughout the North.

No passports to leave country granted.

Strict watch to be maintained on Canada border.

George Francis Train was imprisoned in London on the 1st inst., to prevent his embarkation for America, where he intended raising Volunteers. It is more likely he is locked up in an asylum. [Ed. News.]

In the late near Culpepper the 10th Maine lost 150 killed and wounded; the 28th New York Regt. lost more than half; the 5th Connecticut and 46th Pennsylvania suffered similarly.

Pope yesterday advanced his command to the position lately occupied by the enemy.

PURE AIR.—The air is required impure by other causes as well as that of breathing. We have shown in former numbers that pure air composed of oxygen, nitrogen and carbonic acid gas, in certain fixed proportions—that these proportions are such as are fitted for healthy breathing, that unless these proportions are maintained the blood cannot be purified; that impure air makes impure blood, and is one great cause of disease and death. To quote from a Sanitary Commissioner's report, "Pure air is so necessary to life, health and comfort, more necessary, indeed, than food itself, inasmuch as that, without a due supply of it, the best and most abundant food will give neither health, nor strength—that to insure it in every house occupied by the poor—in every factory, hospital, workshop, or other building made to receive numbers—seems a primary and imperative duty." [Dr. Hall's Journal of Health.]

CONTRABAND MINIONS.—Among the curiosities exhibited in the last Paris Exposition, and promised for ours was a huge concave mirror and looking into it it presents nothing but a magnificent monthly dissection of your own physiognomy. On retiring a minute, a receipt of feet, it gives your own face and figure in true proportion, but reversed—head downwards. Most of the spectators, ignorant of anything else, observe these two effects, and pass on. But retire still further, standing at the distance of five

or six feet from the mirror, and behold! you see yourself—not a reflection, it does not strike you as a reflection—but your own veritable self standing in the middle part between you and the mirror. The effect is almost appalling, from the idea it suggests of something supernatural—so startling—in fact, that men of the strongest nerves will shrink involuntarily at the first view. If you raise your cane to thrust at your other self, you will see it pass clean through the body and appear on the other side, the figure thrusting you at the same instant. [C. Paper.]

CHASE OF THE ENGLISH STEAMER HERALD.—The Nassau Guardian of July 26, has the annexed account of the pursuit of the British steamer Herald by the United States steamer Adirondack, which was briefly reported by telegraph:—

"One of the most glaring outrages we have ever had occasion to record took place within sight of our citizens yesterday morning. At daybreak two steamers were observed from the shore, one giving chase to and firing at the other. The vessels turned out to be the federal man-of-war Adirondack, (14) Commander Gansevoort, and the English steamer Herald, Capt. Coxeter. We have been favored with the particulars by an eye witness on board the latter vessel."

The Herald was steering for Nassau at half-past the lighthouse being in sight, and shortly afterward saw a vessel about two and a half miles ahead. At half-past five of clock she was about four points on the star board bow, and a mile distant. She then changed her course, and stood for the Herald, as if to cross her bows. Within two or three hundred yards of her, she rounded up to windward. The former then hoisted the British flag; and the latter fired a "shot" across her bows. The Herald kept on her course, still at half speed, when the other fired a shot across her bows, slightly grazing her stern, and afterwards showed the American flag.

On this Capt. Coxeter ordered all steam to be put on his vessel, when the American sheered off between three and four hundred yards and fired a broadside, which was ineffective. From this time she kept up a continuous fire, throwing solid, shell, chain and grape shot, giving chase, and not desisting till the Herald was within two miles or less of the light house. The flag was shot down but immediately replaced. The deck was splintered over the cabin by a shell part of which was found on board. Capt. Coxeter stood on the paddle box all the time, and was heard to exclaim, "He may sink me but he shall not take me."

No material damage was done to the vessel, and not a man on board was hurt.

The Herald entered the harbor between six and seven o'clock, and reported the case to Captain Hickey of H. M. S. Greyhound, who immediately got up steam and proceeded to the Adirondack, for the purpose of protesting against the proceedings of Captain Gansevoort. The captain of the federal man-of-war, however, asserts his right to search any vessel suspected of carrying contraband of war within three miles of any coast, and quotes Vattel on International Law in support of the act he has taken.

The subject, we understand, will be referred to the government, at the request of Captain Gansevoort.

With all due deference to the captain of the Adirondack, and the authority he has brought forward in support of his untoward act, we feel convinced that the imperial government will never countenance such a gross infringement of the neutrality laws, and we sincerely trust that no similar outrages will be perpetrated again within our waters.

Our goods are detained from month to month by the Customs House authorities of New York; our vessels are constantly being boarded by Federal gunboats within our own waters, and that while our time-honored flag is flying; not even the mail packet British Queen can pass along unmolested, for she was fired at and brought to this very place. Only a few weeks ago the British steamer Bermuda was captured off Abaco, within sight of the lighthouse; and, on the 8th instant, what do we find? Why the Federal gunboat Adirondack carrying off the British steamer Adala, with eight of the Biminish. It is high time to put an end to these unheard of proceedings."

THE FRENCH NAVY AND ARMY.—The French navy comprises 349 vessels, about 41 building; 19 of the latter being iron-plated frigates and nine transports. 172 vessels of different kinds are in commission, the majority paddle vessels, transports, &c. There are fourteen ships of the line in commission and 11 screw frigates. The French sailing fleet includes 119 vessels afloat and three building. Sixty-three vessels are in commission. The grand total of the military force of France including the reserve,

was on the first of January last according to Col. Claremont, 616,548 men, to which must be added those of the year, or about 700,000 men, to give the total available force of France. The embodied part of the French army consists of 446,548 men; and this portion M. Fould intends gradually to reduce to 415,000 previous to January, 1862.

SLAVERY IN AFRICA.—The American Geographical Society had just received a letter from its fellow-member the great African explorer, Dr. Livingstone, dated River Shire, Jan. 6, 1852. He had just returned from two hundred mile of Lake Nyassa, which he sailed into on the 2d of last September; and this is what he says about civilization in these parts:—

"The population on its shores is prodigiously large and engage in catching fish by nets, hooks, creels, torches or poison. Slavery is the only trade they know. An Arab vessel called a dhow had been built on the lake to carry slaves across, and we daily expect a steamer (in parts) out from England to be carried past the cataracts, and launched on its waters for a different purpose. The natives had never seen Europeans before, and we had to bear to be started at to any moment. They were upon the whole civil; no fires were kindled or dunes demanded. We were, however, robbed in the sphere of the slaves' operations; the first time we had suffered from thieves in Africa. The people are much less honest where slaving goes on than elsewhere, and there they place but little value on human life. We went up to show a mission (sent out by the Oxford and Cambridge Universities) a healthy locality on the islands south Mount Zomba, and in trying to induce a tribe called Ajawa to desert from slave hunting, were attacked with poisoned arrows and guns, and but for recourse to firearms in self-defence would soon have been made food for the vultures; they were the first who have attacked us in Africa, and seemed maddened by continued success in clever forays against their fellow countrymen."

Africa is a continent of future. It is impossible to realize its capabilities. It is pre-eminently a cotton country, for here the plant is perennial, and requires little of that heart-breaking toil necessary where it is an exotic; no frost endangers the crops, and the best quality yield largely. Slave hunting is the greatest drawback known—it de-populates the country so much that labor becomes dear in proportion to its prevalence. The Portuguese possessions on the Zambezi are valuable, because all the labor is deported to Bourbon, the subjects of his Most Frightful Majesty of Lisbon having performed the part of the boy of the Goose with the Golden Egg."

CIVILITY IS A FORTUNE.—Civility is a fortune in itself, for a courteous man always succeeds in life, and that even when persons of ability sometimes fail. The famous Duke of Marlborough is a case in point. It was said of him by a contemporary that his agreeable manners often converted an enemy into a friend; and, by another, that it was more pleasing to be denied a favor by his grace, than to receive one from personal dislike, even at a time when he was politically the most unpopular man in the kingdom. The history of our own country is full of examples of success obtained by civility. The experience of every man furnishes, if he will recall the past, frequent instances where conciliatory manners have made the fortunes of physicians, lawyers, divines, politicians, merchants, and indeed individuals of all pursuits. On being introduced to a stranger, his affability, or the reverse, breathes instantaneously a prejudice against him. To man civility is, in fact, what beauty is to woman—it is a general passport to favor, a letter of recommendation, written in a language that every stranger understands. The best of men have often injured themselves by irritability and consequent rudeness, as the greatest scoundrels have frequently succeeded by their plausible manners. Of two men, equal in all other respects, the courteous one has twice the chance for fortune."

LOUISIANA SWAMP HONORS.—A walk around the peninsula and a night spent on a boat tied upon its banks, reveals the horrors of a Louisiana swamp. On the levee and on the railroad embankment, every few rods, one of the poisonous serpents peculiar to this latitude is to be encountered by the pedestrian. There are but three varieties, that I have yet seen—the moccasin snake, and the copperhead. The bite of either of these is deadly; the last being more dreaded by the natives than either of the others. Lizards and other creeping things are found in profusion, and the frogs in the swamp keep up a continual concert throughout the night. Mosquitoes, large and bloodthirsty,

prey upon the luckless wight who occupies shore or steamboat.

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.—A correspondent of the Boston Transcript, who is the Topographical Engineer of N. H., states that one of the most wonderful geological discoveries ever made round the White Mountains has just been brought to the notice of scientific men. Two young men of Berlin Falls, in sliding down the cliffs of a rugged mountain, two miles from that town found the entrance to an enormous cave, the existence of which was unknown before. Wm D. Jacobson, a noted guide in that region, made a thorough exploration of it, using candles to light his way. Finding it a beautiful mineral of a bright color, he reported the fact, and the cave was visited by Mr. E. S. Brown, a mineralogist, who found the entire cave was made of jasper, of magnificent color and quality. The entrance is so small that a man can barely enter it on his hands and knees. About ten feet from the entrance it is nine feet high and fifteen feet wide, opening into a fine apartment sixty feet in length, formed of jasper of a delicate blue and ash color, striped with red, so exquisitely beautiful as to draw exclamations of surprise and admiration from the dullest student of nature.

But the wonders of the cave do not lie in the fact that it is formed, but in the fact that the long disputed question is now settled where the Indians of New England got their jasper to make their arrow heads. It has never been known until now where this jasper of a blue color, which they used came from. There can be no doubt but that the Indians hunted of years since, commenced the work of chipping off pieces, and continued the work until a cavern sixty feet in extent was cut out of the rock, for the top and sides of the cave all show that it has been chipped in many thousand places. In many places the vein of jasper has been cut to its intersection with the granite and there the work stopped. An Indian axe and tomahawk were found in the bottom of the cave such as were used during the French and Indian wars when the Pequawbets, Pennacocks and Androscoggin wandered in this beautiful region—in which their savage implements are now found in abundance. Berlin Falls is in Coos County, New Hampshire.

A MAN MONSTER.—A subscriber at Beach Ridge, near Anice, has sent us a long communication giving the particulars of the antics of a monster in human form, supposed to be lurking near the woods in the third concession. The letter in question is too lengthy for publication, but in the main amounts to this:—

For some time back the residents in the neighborhood above mentioned have been considerably excited over the unwelcome visit of a "wild man," who, as those who have seen him say is "a man of advanced age, his beard flowing as if over his chest, and almost in a state of nudity." He seems foolish in that he is, to have a particular spite at the ladies; his chief delight being in casting stones at those who come near him. He is reported to have struck one young girl with a heavy stone, doing her considerable injury. The young lady teaching the school in the vicinity seems to have come in for a fair share of the monster's attention; so much so, that she contemplates giving up her school for a season. He is also represented as being gifted with exceedingly powerful lungs. His screeching at times are reported to be terrific turning the welkin into a perfect pandemonium. This is the substance of the letter in question and we give it for what it is worth. The writer appears to be an individual of candor, and we can hardly doubt but there is some foundation in the existence of such a remarkable character in that neighborhood. He also adds that in the middle last week to the number of about twenty, armed with guns and accompanied by dogs, sallied forth for the purpose of capturing or killing the continuity of this remarkable specimen of humanity. After a protracted search they got a sight of him, but failed to accomplish the desired object—his arrest. They report him as being possessed of an extraordinary power of speed—distancing the fleetest hounds. We shall probably hear more from our friend in the neighborhood on this subject. [Huntington (L. C.) Journal.]

SALMON FLY FISHING.—Le Journal de Quebec mentions that the Hon. Col. Charteris and party, four in number, altogether have caught with the fly 279 salmon, weighing in all 3116 lbs. and averaging eleven and one sixth pounds each. Mr. Bacon and Mr. Williams, of Boston, have also caught with the fly in the river Moisie, 318 salmon, averaging fifteen and a half pounds each.

THE CURRENT CHASING.—More Provincials are coming here to winter than here are scheduled, pushing to see Province 10 escape the small of the season, and the small of the winter.