Corsica. The aggregate length of working lines given in the table is 5,105 miles, and this does not include a number of short lines laid in different parts of the world, nor those laid by Felten & Guilleaume, of Cologne, amounting to more than 1,000 miles. One line has been laid 13 years, five have been laid 11 years, four 10 years, and others shorter periods.

Miscellaneous.

PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

The Metropolitan Association has been instrumental in the erection of nearly eighty fountains. The number is large, but the mouths are many. Others besides the positively poor will occasionally satisfy thirst by drinking from a fountain which has a fair and attractive appearance. Clerks and others, of a somewhat superior grade, and particularly young people of almost all classes, relish a draught of clear, cold water in the heat of the day. These eighty fountains are planted in the midst of three millions of people, and Mr. Gurney states that not less than a quarter of a million of persons drink of them daily during the heat of the year. But must we consider the remaining two millions and three-quarters indifferent to the limpid tricklings of these beneficient institutions? If we calculate that one-third of the metropolitan population are of an age, status, and mode of life which may render a public drinking fountain occasionally acceptable to the individual, we find that at the rate of water drinking already observed the metropolis ought to have 320 fountains instead of 80. Then there are the cattle, and of course the dogs. In regard to the latter there is the "Home for lost and Starving Dogs;" but Mr. Gurney has a special regard for the "thirsty" ones. When we remember what hydrophobia means, our very selfishness may be quickened with philantrophy, and we may feel the importance of satisfying even the thirsty cur, so as to lessen the risk of our being bitten by that worse than an Indian tiger—a "mad dog." It is hard to imagine how much the inferior creation may suffer from thirst in our arid streets during the heat and drought of summer. The spectacle presented by our horned cattle, and even by the poor helpless sheep, as they are driven through our streets when the weather is far from cool, is often anything but creditable to our civilisation. Mr. Gurney says that, "'the provision made for the relief of the sufferings of cattle and dogs from thirst falls far short of what is required," and we can readily believe it. Nor is it consistent with the public safety to ignore the fact. Thirst and fever are almost synonymous, and a mad bull is even worse than a mad dog, while the sufferings of cattle before they are killed may account for the deteriorated appearance so often presented by our beef and mutton, and which is in striking contrast with the tempting-looking joints to be seen in the shops of provincial butchers.—*English Paper.*

[If drinking fountains such as above described could be established in all our cities and populous towns in Canada, they would prove a great convenience as well as comfort to thirsty passers-by, and would serve the cause of temperance and morality more perhaps than almost any other simple institution. Multitudes during our warm summer days are drawn to the taverns to procure wherewith to slake their thirst, who would otherwise, if such fountains were provided, abstain from the intoxicating cup. Could not our municipal authorities of towns wherein water-works exist, have simple water-taps placed in *shaded nooks* around our market places, and along our principal thoroughfares; and so as to secure a clean glass and a pleasant drink at all times, place such taps in care of aged or infirm individuals, who might charge a cent a drink to all persons able to pay—thus effecting a public good, and affording an honest livelihood to such as would otherwise be dependant upon the charitable public for a subsistence. Where water-works are not in existence, public pumps might be established under similar regulations to those above suggested.—Ed. Journal.]

The Big Trees of California.

Let us walk upon the "big tree" stump. You see it is perfectly smooth, sound and level. Upon this stump on the 4th of July, thirty-two persons were engaged in dancing four sets of cotillions at one time, without suffering any inconvenience whatever, and besides these there were musicians and lookers on.

Across the solid wood of this stump, five feet and a half from the ground, (now the bark is removed, which was from fifteen to eighteen inches in thickness), measures twenty-five feet, and with the bark twenty-eight feet. Think for a moment; the stump of a tree exceeding nine yards in diameter, and sound to the very center. This tree employed five men for twenty-two days in felling it, not by chopping it down, but by boring it off with pump augers. After the stem was fairly severed from the stump, the uprightness of the tree, and the breadth of its base sustained it in its position. To accomplish the feat of throwing it over, about two and a half days were spent in inserting wedges and driving them in by the butts of trees, until at last, the noble monarch of the forest was forced to tremble, and then to fall, after braving "the battle and breeze" of nearly three thousand years. —This noble tree was three hundred and two feet in height, and ninety-six feet in circumference at the ground.

A short distance from the above lies the prostrate and majestic body of the "Father of the Forest," the largest tree of the whole group, half buried in the soil. This tree measures in circumference at the roots, one hundred and ten feet. It is two hundred feet to the first branch. By the trees that were broken off when this tree bowed its proud head in its fall, it is estimated that when standing it could not have been less than four hundred and thirty-five feet in height. Three hundred feet from the roots, where it was broken off by striking against another tree, it is eighteen feet in diameter.—*Hutchin's Wonders of California.*