

with The Beach, will reply, philosophical-ly and satisfactorily—"What formed it there?"

Ice Spring.—Under the head of *Natural History*, in this paper will be found an article relative to a natural curiosity in the township of Clinton, known by the name of Ice Spring. The most striking peculiarity which our correspondent notices in this cave, is that it freezes only in summer. Our correspondent, however, does not pretend to have visited this Spring in the winter, and we are informed that, contrary to his statement, it contains ice at that season also. Still, it is remarkable and perhaps unprecedented, that in this latitude and at no considerable height ice should be found during summer at the distance of twenty-five feet from the surface of the earth. Our correspondent says, "It is believed that this Spring is the only one that apparently operates directly contrary to the principles of freezing and thawing," alluding, probably to its freezing while the external fluids are at a thawing temperature and *visa versa*. We have seen several open springs reputed to be warmest in winter, but never ascertained the truth by experiment. If such is the fact, it may, perhaps, be accounted for by the operations of the internal heat of the earth, which, though more intense at certain points, is considerable every where; consequently, at certain states of the atmosphere, there will be exhalations from the earth, sometimes above and at others below the temperature of the air. In summer this communication is comparatively unobstructed; but in winter, as the surface of the earth in this climate is generally frozen to the depth of two or three feet, the internal fluids only find vent through caves, springs, &c. This general principle may partly account for the phenomenon of the Ice Spring. Supposing this Spring so situated that during winter the internal warmth of the earth, (in consequence of the surface being locked in frost,) for some distance around, is concentrated at this fissure, the temperature of the cave or spring will thereby be raised enough to thaw ice that had accumulated there while the internal fluids found a general vent. There are many springs that are generally lowest in the rainy seasons & the year, owing to the great depth of their fountains. These springs are generally situated, like the Ice Spring, near the margin of some mountain; consequently the water will occupy considerable time in passing from the surface to the base where it issues, and when the fountain begins to rise the weather will have become dry. Now, how far the situation of these rocks enclosing the Ice Spring may favor the penetration of heat from the surface, and how long they may retain warmth after their surface is again cooled, must be a matter of conjecture; but if it is possible that the elements operate similarly upon these periodical springs, such means may add to the effects described by our correspondent. The unusual coldness of this spring,

considering its depth, must still depend upon some peculiarity in its location. Its entrance is said to lie in a deep shade, and the mass of cold minerals above must affect its temperature, but some additional cause would seem necessary, which we hope our correspondent will assign.

NEW EXCHANGE.

Our field for good selections is daily widening; so that when our copy draw gets destitute of manuscript, which cannot be soon, (thank the liberality of contributors,) there will still be opportunity to attempt what Dr. Goldenith esteemed a sterling literary qualification.

Green Mountain Repository.—This is the title of a new literary paper, published at Burlington Vt.—Zadock Thompson A. M. Editor. In his prospectus, Mr. T. expresses a determination "that no part of the work, not even for the sake of variety, shall be devoted to the circulation of that kind of insipid and worse than useless trash, with which most of the periodicals of the present day literally abound, under the denomination of popular tales. The Repository is to contain a biography, meteorological observations, history, useful miscellany and poetry." In the department of *Natural History*, the editor flatters himself that he "shall derive no small assistance from the laudable exertions now making by the College of Natural History in the University of Vermont."

Hygiene.—Health is cheap indeed at One Dollar and a quarter per ann. Yet these are the terms on which the publishers of the Journal of Health dole out the poor man's riches the rich man's bliss to thousands of their subscribers. This Journal is published semi-monthly, at Philadelphia, under the conduct of an association of physicians, and contains remarks on the peculiar disorders of the seasons, prudentials and proscriptions against them, and articles on health in general. The number before us, among several interesting articles, contains one affording many hints on the treatment of Measles, Scarlet Fever, &c.

Agriculture.—On the drudgery of setting types! Like most men, we esteem our occupation less pleasant than some other. Who wants to swap a good farm for the Canadian Casket establishment? We long to demonstrate some of the many excellent rules of husbandry laid down by the General Farmer, a paper published weekly at Rochester, N. Y. by L. Tucker & Co.—term \$2 per ann. in advance. This paper consists principally of original matter from the pens of botanists gardeners and practical farmers.

RECEIPTS.

LETTERS.—From J. B. Spragge, P. M.; Matthew Hunter; Smith Griffin, P. M.; Noah Barnhart; Wm. M'Comick, P. M.; Hugh Loosemore; W. J. Sumner; Wm. Clay; Tho's L. Ritter.

REMITTANCES.—From Noah Barnhart, \$1; Merrick Thomas, \$2; John Haines, \$2; Lucas Meddleton, \$2; John Street,

\$2; Charles Barnhart, D2; Tho's L. Ritter, D 2.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Burlington Bay, An Indian Legend, War, Beauties of Nature, The Dido, are received and approved.

MISCELLANY.

"Various that the mind of desultory man,
Studi us of change and pleas'd with novelty,
May be indulg'd."

SELECTED.

ANCIENT RUINS.

IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

A late number of the London Literary Gazette contains a letter from Lieut. Colonel Gihndo, at Petten, in Central America, giving some idea of those antiquities which rescue ancient America from the charge of barbarism. These ruins extend for more than twenty miles, and must anciently have embraced a city and its suburbs. The principal edifice is supposed to have been a palace, formed of two rows of galleries, eight feet wide, separated by walls a yard thick; the height of the walls to the eaves is nine feet, and thence three yards more to the top. The stones of which all the edifices are built are about eighteen inches long, cemented with mortar. The front of the palace contained five lofty and wide doors. Numerous statues of stone are scattered about. In another building, which Colonel G. calls the study are numerous full length figures, of about six feet high, some of them holding naked infants on their right arms, and not in the manner of the modern Indian women, who always set their children astride on their hips. A place of religious worship and a prison, complete the list of buildings enumerated by Colonel G.

"The whole of the ruins," says Col. G. "are buried in a thick forest, and months might be delightfully employed in exploring them. I have seen sufficient to ascertain the high civilization of the former inhabitants, and that they possessed the art of representing sounds by signs, with which I have hitherto believed no Americans previous to the conquest were acquainted. The neighboring country for many leagues distant, contains remains of the ancient labors of its people—bridges reservoirs, monumental inscriptions, subterraneous edifices, &c. Every thing bears testimony that these surprising people were not physically dissimilar from the present Indians; but their civilization far surpassed that of the Mexicans and Peruvians; they must have existed long prior to the fourteenth century." When the Indians who at present inhabit the neighborhood of these ruins, are asked who built them, they reply—"THE DEVIL."

SINGULAR ALTERNATIVE.—It was formerly a law in Germany, that a female condemned, to capital punishment should be saved, if any man would marry her. A young girl at Vienna was on the point of being executed, when her youth and beauty made a great impression upon the heart of