

Statistical Information.

Fossil Ivory.

About forty thousand pounds of fossil ivory, that is to say, the tusks of at least one hundred mammoths, are bartered for every year in New Siberia, so that in a period of two hundred years of trade with that country, the tusks of twenty thousand mammoths must have been disposed of—perhaps even twice that number, since only two hundred pounds of ivory is calculated as the average weight produced by a pair of tusks.

The Dental Art.

Forty years ago surgeons and doctors generally officiated as teeth-pullers whenever occasion demanded. In 1820 there were but thirty practicing dentists in the United States. In 1850 the number had increased to 2,923, and at present there are about 5,000 regular dentists. A college for the education of those desiring to enter this profession, has been established over a year in this city, and the faculty of Harvard College, at their last commencement, provided for a department of dentistry in connection with that university.

The Niagara Suspension Bridge.

Ever since the middle of March, 1855, from thirty to forty railway trains have passed over the Niagara Bridge daily. With the exception of the timber girders, and some other wooden parts which showed signs of decay, no part of the suspended system has ever been disturbed. The work is considered just as strong this day as it was at the time when the first train of cars passed over.

The Public Debt of the United States.

The following is the statement of the public debt of the United States on the 1st of October, 1867:

Total debt bearing coin interest	\$1,745,190,141 50
Total debt bearing currency interest	461,074,680 00
National debt not presented for payment.....	18,221,256 83
Total debt bearing no interest.....	861,164,844 00
Fractional currency.....	29,864,713 37
Gold certificates of deposit.....	14,867,820 00

Total debt	\$2,630,369,456 00
Amount in Treasury—	
Coin	\$103,298,659 69
Currency	31,813,349 55
Total in Treasury	\$135,112,009 24
Amount of debt less cash in Treasury.....	\$2,495,277,446 76

Mining Items.

CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES.—The California gold mines are said to be yielding more freely than ever before. As a specimen: near Smartsville upwards of \$1,000,000 of gold have been taken from one claim of 100 acres, since March 1861. "It takes a mine to work a mine" says an old Spanish proverb, and to open the mine under notice, took nine years of incessant labor, and an enormous expenditure of money. It has four miles of sluices, three rods wide and three feet deep, in which is distributed three tons of quicksilver to catch the gold. The water used in washing costs \$25,000 per annum, and 125,000 pounds of powder are expended annually in blasting.

LAKE SUPERIOR IRON MINES.—The total product of the Lake Superior iron mines last year was 306,252 tons of ore. The reasons for the exceedingly rapid development of these mines since the year 1855 when the shipments of ore were 1,445 tons—are many and obvious. The deposits are immense, easily worked, and nearly free from those noxious elements which render the flux of most iron or ores difficult and expensive. None of the mines, moreover, are over thirty-five miles from cheap water transportation, while most of them are only fifteen or sixteen miles distant.

MINERALS IN MEXICO.—In Mexico there exist 187 different kinds of minerals, among which are gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, zinc, mercury, tin, etc.

BORAX.—A California paper says that the company engaged in taking out borax in Lake county, will soon be in condition to extract five tons of this article per day from the Borax Lake.

PENNSYLVANIA COAL.—It is calculated that Pennsylvania contains coal enough to supply 20,000,000 tons annually for the next 650 years.

MARMORA IRON.—The Marmora iron mines in Canada, forty miles from Lake Ontario, have been purchased by Philadelphia capitalists. The purchase covers 23,000 acres, also the Cobourg and Peterboro railway. Ore from this mine has yielded from sixty to seventy per cent. of fine iron.

United States War Statistics.

From the records of the Surgeon-Generals' office during the war, it would appear that cold steel plays but little part in modern battles. In three years there were reported, on the Union side, only a hundred and forty-three bayonet wounds, and a hundred and five saber cuts. Gunpowder does the work. Modern artillery and long range rifles give no chance for the bayonet or the dashing cavalry charge.

Miscellaneous.

A New Cement and Building Material.

In a communication to the French Academy of Sciences, M. Sorrel describes a new cement, being a basic hydrated oxychloride of magnesium. It is obtained by slacking magnesia with a solution of chloride of magnesium in a more or less concentrated state. The denser the solution the harder it becomes on drying. This magnesium cement is the whitest and hardest known to this day, and it can be moulded like plaster, in which case the cast acquires the hardness of marble. It will take any color, and has been used by the inventor for mosaics, imitations of ivory, billiard balls, etc. The new cement possesses the agglutinative property in the highest degree, so that solid masses may be made with it at a very low cost by mixing it up on a large scale with substances of little value. One part of magnesia may be incorporated with upwards of twenty parts of sand, limestone, and other inert substances, so as to form hard blocks; while lime and other cements will hardly admit of the incorporation of two or three times their weight of extraneous matter.