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HARBOUR GRACE, Conception Bay, Newfoundland.—Printed and Published by JOHN THOMAS BURTON, at his Office, opposite Mess. W. Dix & Co's

Pestilence in America.—A mortal plague, said to be the same as the "Black Death" which raged so fatally in England and in Europe some five or six centuries ago has broken out in the western and southwestern borders of the United States. As yet it has been exclusively confined to the Indians. It attacks the head and loins suddenly, and with dreadful pain; and in about two hours the victim is a corpse. The body then swells enormously, and turns instantly black. Some idea may be formed of the fearful progress and havoc of death on the prairies from the fact that within a few weeks more than 33,000 savages died. Of a lodge of 1600 Mandans, (a noble tribe,) only thirty-five remained alive. 10,600 Assineboins have died and deserted wigwams, newly made mounds or putrifying corpses, attended only by the croaking raven and the screaming eagle make the mournful desolation of the Indian forests and prairies. The crows and black feet, so eloquently described in Irving's "Astoria" and "Rocky Mountains," have suffered dreadfully; and more than one of the smaller tribes have been summoned, men, women, and papoose to the tribunal of Manitoulin, the Great Spirit not one remaining to tell that they were once a nation of warriors! The disease is supposed to have originated from small pox amongst the traders and from them to have been communicated to the Indians, where it soon appeared in the aggravated form of "The Black Death."

From a parliamentary return just published (No. 365) it appears, that the poor-law unions formed in England and Wales include a total population of 8,668,270—averaging 17,302 in each union measuring on an average 78 square miles and having 35 guardians.

Great excitement has been caused in London by the trial of Robert Myers, in the Central Criminal Court, on a charge of feloniously setting fire to his house, in High-Street, Marylebone, with intent to defraud the Union Fire Office. The accused had formerly been in very extensive business, as a linen draper, in Oxford-street, but having become embarrassed, he had removed to the above-named premises. The trial commenced on Friday, and was not terminated till Monday evening, when after the Lord Chief Justice Tindal had summed up, which he commenced doing at six o'clock, and concluded at eight, the jury retired for two hours and a half, and on their return into court pronounced a verdict of guilty. On Saturday the prisoner was sentenced to be transported for life.

NEW BRANCH OF COMMERCE.—A salesman from Spitalfields market is now in Guernsey, purchasing brocoli to send to London. He has as we are informed, already bought upwards of 8,000 heads at from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 2d. per dozen. An inhabitant of Guernsey has alone embarked in a similar speculation, and is on the point of going to London with several thousand heads of the above mentioned vegetable which were this day shipped on board the Eolus.—*Guernsey Star.*

New Line of Steamers betwixt Liverpool and Glasgow. In reference to an advertisement in this paper, relative to a new line of steamers intended for the Liverpool station and which, we notice are to be built of iron, we understand that the leading advantages which these vessels will possess are greater strength, safety and speed than can be obtained in vessels built of timber by being divided into five sections, with partitions of iron as strong as the sides of the vessel. They will not only be safety vessels as regards fire, but also as respects striking upon a rock, or getting into collision with another vessel;

inasmuch as, although one, or even two, of the sections were cut and filled with water, the remaining sections would maintain the vessel afloat. We understand, that the speed of these vessels is guaranteed to surpass considerably that of any vessel at present entering the Clyde; and so perfectly adapted will they be for the Liverpool trade that they will arrive at, or depart from the Broomielaw at any stage of the tide, or even at low water; and, from the circumstance of their leaving this at a regular hour every afternoon, so as to arrive at Liverpool the following morning by business hours, the communication betwixt this and London, via the Birmingham Railway, will be brought within the compass of less than 30 hours. We are also informed, that these vessels will have second cabins with sleeping berths, of the accommodation of a class of society who have not hitherto possessed the opportunity of enjoying that comfort on the station betwixt Glasgow and Liverpool.—*Glasgow Argus.*

Extraordinary Leap.—A Yankee sailor, Samuel Scott by name, has been for some time advertising that he would astonish the good folks of Liverpool, by leaping into the water from the mast-head of a vessel called the *Dondo*, now lying in the Victoria-basin. The feat appeared to be so extraordinary at to be almost incredible; and the sceptically inclined were disposed to regard it either as an entire hoax, or at best, as a practical "Jonathanism." Yesterday was the day appointed for the performance of the feat; and long before half past 12, the time at which it was announced to take place, an immense assemblage of persons of all sorts and sizes had come together for the purpose of witnessing it. Shortly before one, the sturdy republican made his appearance. He mounted to the mast-head in gallant style, and after a few notes of preparation, he twirled his hat into the air, fired off a pistol and precipitated himself with the greatest possible sang froid into the element below. He was immediately picked up by a boat, and conveyed safe and sound to terra firma, amidst the cheers of the multitude. Several of the yokels expressed their disappointment that he did not, as he had given them to understand in his "bill," change his dress under the water, and re-appear in the garb of a woman; but the greater number appeared to be highly delighted at what he had actually accomplished.

The feat was repeated by him with equal success at two o'clock in presence of even a more numerous assemblage. A collection we understand was made among the spectators for the hero. The height from which the leap was taken must have been considerably above 150 feet. The leaper is stated to be a thorough-bred Yankee, and a republican to the backbone. We have heard much of the leaping propensities of the Jonathanians, and of the wondrous feats

performed by them in the "land of liberty," but this beats them hollow.

The Shipping Interest.—It may interest some of our commercial readers to be made acquainted with the system pursued in France in navigating their vessels. In that country the merchant and the shipowner are distinct parties. The remuneration of the crew is not a fixed monthly sum, but is contingent on freight. After all expenses are paid, victuals included, the net proceeds of the freight are thus divided:—the ship takes two-thirds, and the crew one-third, and this one-third is apportioned in the following manner:—The captain receives two shares; the mate one and a half, and each of the sailors one share. By this plan the captain of a vessel of 150 tons makes an annual income of about £150. This system identifies the crew with the interests of their employers, constituting in fact a quasi partnership, and to it, in a great measure, may be ascribed the prosperous condition of the French mercantile marine. The subject is not unworthy the careful consideration of the young firms which have recently started up amongst us, for whose information we have been induced to write this brief article. We understand that the vessels which import cattle into this island, are navigated on this principle.—*Jersey Paper.*

The New Law of Wills.—From and after the 1st January last every Will, whether of real or personal property, must be in writing, and be signed by the testator, or by some person in his presence, and by his direction. The signature of the testator must be made, or at least acknowledged, by him in the presence of two or more witnesses present at the same time, who must subscribe their names as witnesses to the execution of the will in the presence of the testator and of each other. As the act does not require any particular form of attestation to be used, it seems that any words of sufficient import will answer the purpose. It may be further necessary to bear in mind that every will made in future will be revoked by the subsequent marriage of the party making it, without the birth of a child supervening.

By a recent Order in Council, Dutch vessels entering English ports have been placed on the same footing, and are to possess the same advantages, as English vessels. This boon is also granted by the King of Holland to English vessels going to Dutch Ports.

Ancient Bridal chaunt. Madame de Stael, in her touching romance 'Delphine,' has preserved the ancient bridal chaunt of the peasants of Languedoc, and describes in eloquent language the effect it produces on a stranger when sung in full chorus by the villagers. Her description is, no doubt, colored to the hue of her own impassioned narrative; but those who know the effect of their ancient songs upon a simple but affectionate people will not think it greatly exaggerated. The first verse is sung by the bride, and is sung by the bride, and is literally as follows:

Grant me then, my mother,
For my husband, my lover;
I will love him tenderly
As thou hast loved my father!

The mother replies in nearly the same words,

Thy mother grants thee
For thy husband, thy lover;
Thou wilt love him tenderly
As she has loved thy father.

The father then takes up the strain and to the same air repeats—

My daughter, imitate thy mother!
For thy husband take thy lover,
And cherish him tenderly,
As she has loved thy father.

I have made no attempt to give a rhymed version of the above, for fear of destroying its simplicity, but have contented myself with rendering it word for word and line for line from the original.

Humanity of the Bedouins. The Bedouins treat their slaves with great kindness, and it is considered mean and unmanly to beat them. The Bedouins are kind to all created beings, to man and to beast. They live like brothers together, and I have never hitherto seen them use an angry gesture or heard them utter a harsh expression towards each other; they appear to be of a mild, cheerful disposition possessing a softness of temper and good nature which make them pleasing companions.

Johnson, the lexicographer, once made a bet with Boswell that he would go into a fish market, and put a Billingsgate woman into a passion without saying a word that she could understand. The doctor commenced by silently indicating with his nose that her fish had passed the state in which a man's alfacories could endure their flavour. The Billingsgate lady made a verbal attack, common in vulgar parlance. The doctor answered, "You are an article, madam." "No more an article than yourself, you villain." "You are a noun, woman." "You—you—you," stammered the woman, choking with rage at a list of titles she could not understand. "You are a pronoun." The beldame shook her fist in speechless rage. "You are a verb—an adverb—an adjective—a conjunction—a preposition—an interjection," solemnly continued the doctor, applying the harmless epithets at intervals. The nine parts of speech completely conquered the old woman, and she plumped herself into the mud, crying with rage at being thus at-

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