

Its annual importation.—The quantity of cork annually imported into England is about 25,000 tons, which is a great deal when we consider the lightness of cork.

THE ISLAND OF JAVA.

Batavia, the capital city of the island of Java, according to the description of a newspaper correspondent, is a brilliant specimen of Oriental splendour. The houses, which are white as snow, are placed two or three hundred feet back from the street, the intervening space being filled with trees, literally alive with birds and every variety of plants and flowers. Every house has a piazza in front decorated with beautiful pictures, elegant lamps, bird-cages, &c., while rocking-chairs, lounges, &c., of the nicest description, furnish accommodations for the family, who sit here mornings and evenings. At night the city is one blaze of light from the lamps. The hotels have grounds of eight or ten acres in extent around them, covered with fine shade trees, with fountains, flower-gardens, &c. Indeed, so numerous are the trees, the city almost resembles a forest. The rooms are very high and spacious, without carpets, and but few curtains. Meals are served up in about the same style as at first class hotels. At daylight coffee and tea are taken to the guest's room, and again at eight o'clock, with light refreshments. At twelve breakfast is served, and at seven, dinner. Coffee and tea are always ready, day and night. No business is done in the street in the middle of the day, on account of the heat. The nights and mornings are cool and delightful; birds are singing all night. The thermometer stands at about 82 degrees throughout the year. The island of Java contains a population of 10,000,000; the city of Batavia, 180,000. The island abounds with tigers, leopards, anacondas, and poisonous insects of all kinds. The finest fruits in the world are produced in great profusion.

BOYHOOD OF GARIBALDI.

The sight of the sea, especially if rough and stormy, exerted a powerful influence over him. Hour after hour he would remain motionless on a cliff, with his eyes fixed on the waves, utterly unconscious of whatever was going on, and regretting his reverie whenever his playmates awoke him from it and called him to join their sports. One day his teacher found him sitting by a window, with an open book in his hand, so absorbed in the contemplation of a stormy sea that it was necessary to wait some time before the child noticed his presence.

"What are you doing there, boy?" asked the teacher.

"I am reading," answered little Joseph.

"But you do not even look upon the book."

"It is true," remarked the child, somewhat disconcerted by the remark.

"Where were you reading, then?"

"O, I was reading yonder, in that sea, in that beautiful sky."

"And what did you read there?" persisted Mr. Arena, astonished at that precocious admiration of his pupil for the spectacles of nature.

"I don't know," thoughtfully said the child, "but it seems to me I read there finer things than in books."

"That may be; but, to learn how to read the great book of nature, you must begin by reading your own books—otherwise you will turn out to be an ignorant man."

There was an instant silence; then the boy ventured to ask—

"Can an ignorant man be a good sailor?"

"Certainly."

"Well, then," said he, throwing away the book, "rather than to break my head with all these things, I choose to be a sailor."

"Why?"

"Because," said the child, hesitating, "because the sea is beautiful and grand."

"But when it is agitated—when it is roaring?"

"O," quickly replied young Garibaldi, with transport, "then it is far more beautiful, and far more grand!"

BARBARTY OF WHALE FISHING.

The maternal affection of the whale is striking and affecting. The cub being insensible to danger, is easily harpooned, when the tender affection of the mother is so manifested, as not unfrequently to bring it within reach of the cruel whalers. Hence though a cub is of little value, yet it is sometimes struck as a snare for its affectionate mother! In this case she joins it at the surface of the water, whenever it has occasion to rise for respiration, encourages it to swim away; assists its flight by taking it under her fin; and seldom deserts it while life remains. She is then dangerous to approach, but affords frequent opportunities for attack. She loses all regard for her own safety, in anxiety for the preservation of her young; dashes through the midst of her enemies; despises the danger that threatens her, and even voluntarily remains with her offspring after various attacks have been made upon herself. In the whale fishery of 1814, a harpooner struck a young whale with the barbarous hope of its leading to the poor mother. Presently she arose, and seizing the young one, dragged about a hundred fathoms of line out of the boat, with remarkable force and velocity. Again she arose to the surface, darted furiously to and fro; frequently stopped short, or suddenly changed her direction, and

gave every possible intimation of extreme agony. For a length of time she continued thus to act though closely pursued by the boats; and inspired with courage and resolution by her concern for her offspring, seemed regardless of the danger that surrounded her. Being at length struck with six harpoons, she was killed by her savage pursuers.

A MAN THAT SWALLOWED FIFTEEN COWS.—Just as Jonathan was passing a crowd that had collected together to listen to a working man who was addressing them, the speaker said: "I met a man the other day who had swallowed fifteen cows! You may think this strange," continued the speaker, "but I will tell you how it happened. When I first knew him, he was very well to do in the world. He had a comfortable home, and a very good dairy, consisting of fifteen cows. But at length he took to drinking, until first one cow went, then another, and another; until at last, by the drink which he sold the cows to procure, swallowed the whole fifteen, and he is now an inmate of a poorhouse."

CUT IT SHORT.—A certain barber, having the great gift of gab, used to amuse his customers with his long yarns, while he went through his functions on their heads and faces. One day an old man came in, took his seat, and ordered a shave and hair cut. The barber went to work, and began, at the same time, one of his long stories, to the no little dissatisfaction of the old gentleman, who, becoming irritated at the barber, said: "Cut it short." "Yes, sir," said the barber continuing the yarn, until the old gentleman again ordered—"Cut it short, I say—cut it short!" "Yes, sir," clipping away and gabbing faster. "Cut it short, I say," reiterated the gent. "Yes, sir," says the barber, going on with his story. "Will you cut it short?" bawls old gent, in a rage. "Can't, sir," says barber; "for if you look in the glass, you'll see I've cut it all off!" And, to his horror, upon looking in the glass, the gent found his hair all cut from his head.

COMPUTING INTEREST.—A new mode of computing interest at six per cent., has been published, which appears simple. Multiply any given number of dollars by the number of days of interest desired, separate the right hand figure, and divide by six, the result is the true interest of such sum for such number of days at six per cent. This rule is so simple and so true, according to all business usages, that every banker, broker, merchant and clerk should post it up for reference and use. There being no such thing as a fraction in it, there is scarcely any liability to error or mistake. By no arithmetical process can so decided information be obtained with so few figures.