

ment £85,111. Property and investments in the territory of Oregon, ceded to the United States by the treaty of 1846, and which are secured to the company as possessory rights under the treaty, \$1,000,000—say £200,000. The distribution of profits to the shareholders for the years 1847 to 1856, both inclusive, have been: 1847, 10 per cent; 1848, 10 per cent; 1849, 10 per cent; 1850, 20 per cent; of which 10 per cent was added to stock; 1851, 10 per cent; 1852, 15 per cent, of which 5 per cent was added to stock; 1853, £18 4s. 6d. per cent, of which £8 4s. 6d. was added to stock; 1854, 10 per cent; 1855, 10 per cent, and 1856, 10 per cent. The price of stock ex-dividend was:—July, 1847, £200; 1848, £200; 1849, £200; 1850, £210; 1851, £210; 1852, £215; 1853, £225; 1854, £210; 1855, £207½; 1856, 200. Out of 268 proprietors in July, 1856, 196 purchased their stock at from 220 to 240 per cent.—*London Times*.

Railroads.—The first railroad in the United States was at Quincy, Mass., about three miles long, connecting the granite quarries with tidewater. The Baltimore and Ohio, the first passenger railroad, was opened for 15 miles in 1830, with horse power. The Mohawk and Hudson, from Albany to Schenectady, 16 miles, was opened with horse power in 1831. The first locomotive used in this country was on that road in 1831. The whole amount of capital and loans authorized to be invested in railways in England, up to 1859, was \$1,963,413,775, which had all been raised, and \$1,439,001,040 expended since 1828. There have been 9,266 miles of railway built in Great Britain and Ireland. The weekly average receipts from passengers and merchandise were \$2,450,000. The gross receipts of the eight railways terminating in London are over a million of dollars a week. Besides the money invested in British railways, a great deal of stock in railways all over the world is in English hands.

Victoria's first moment of Sovereignty.—William the Fourth expired about midnight, at Windsor Castle. The Archbishop of Canterbury, with other high functionaries of the kingdom, was in attendance. As soon as the King had breathed his last, the Archbishop quitted Windsor and made his way to

Kensington Palace, the residence of the Princess Victoria, where he arrived before daylight, and announced himself, requesting an immediate interview with the Princess. She hastily attired herself, and met the venerable prelate in the ante-room. He informed her of the demise of the crown, and did homage to her as the sovereign of the nation—She was, at eighteen, Queen of the only realm, in fact or history, on which the sun never sets. She was deeply agitated. The first words she uttered were these, "I ask your prayers in my behalf." They knelt down together, and the young Sovereign inaugurated her reign like a young king of Israel, by asking from on high "an understanding heart to judge so great a people, who could not be numbered, nor counted, for multitude."

Learned and Wealthy Africans.—Mr. Bowen the returned African Missionary, in a lecture at New York, said that there were several libraries and a number of learned men in the heart of Africa.—They know a great deal more about us than we know about them. They asked, for instance, if the days of our weeks were not named so-and-so; and when answered affirmatively, replied that they had found it so in their books. The names of Abraham, David, Marianna and Susannah are common in Central Africa. Mr. Bowen saw men with Roman noses, finely formed hands and feet, black skins and woolly heads.—They were called the black-white men, and were esteemed the most learned among the Africans. In Abeokuta there is a market two miles long. Dresses are sold there as high as sixty dollars a piece. The lecturer knew an African intimately, whose wealth was estimated at more than two millions of dollars. The women do not work in the fields in the interior. The language has more abstract nouns than the English, which shows that Africans know how to think.

CONSOLATION FOR THE GOUTY.—Sydenham observed, that gout killed 'more wise than fools.' Cullen said, that it affected especially 'men of large heads.' And to come to one of the most careful observers of our own times, Dr. Watson refers to the 'fact' that gout is 'peculiarly incidental to men of cultivated minds and intellectual distinction.' Doubtless, the more sedentary habits of men of cultivated minds, and the de-