

The Northern Overland Telegraph.

This telegraph line will be a gigantic one, extending through British America, 1,200 miles; through Russian America, 900 miles; across Behring's Straits, 184 miles; across the Gulf of Anadyr, 210 miles; and thence overland to the mouth of the Amoor River, 1,800 miles,—or a total of 4,294 miles. At the Amoor it is to be continued by a Russian line connecting it with Irkoutsk, through Western Siberia, communicating with Nijni Novgorod and Moscow, and thence to St. Petersburg. The capital involved amounts to \$10,000,000.

Miscellaneous.

Earth as a Deodorizer.

A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* says:—The paragraph in your last paper entitled "Dry earth as a Deodorizer," may naturally lead some persons to suppose that it is *only* dry earth which has this valuable effect as a disinfectant, and hence, as it would be a matter of some trouble to get the earth prepared and properly *dried*, its use is likely to be neglected. But *damp* or moist earth is exactly as good for all practical purposes. Dig up the common soil anywhere, pulverize it tolerably well with the spade or hoe, mix it with or throw it upon any offensive substance, and the deodorizing effect is produced completely at once. Common sense teaches this, and practice also.

The Rev. H. Moule, England, in his work on *National Health and Wealth*, says:—

"The power and efficacy of this agent, will, however, be best understood and believed if I give a simple narrative of what, during the last six months, it has done for my own family, averaging during that period fifteen persons daily. Eight months previous to this period, under a strong impression of the evils either occasioned or likely to be occasioned by the vault or cess-pool on my premises, and feeling it to be a nuisance to my next neighbor as well as to myself, I filled it up with earth, and ever since I have had everything that would otherwise have gone into it received and removed in buckets. And even this mode of removal, though offensive in idea, has proved far less so, in reality, than even a very small portion of the evils it is intended to remedy. At first, the contents of these buckets were buried in trenches about a foot deep in my garden; but on the accidental discovery that in three or four weeks after being thus deposited not a trace of this matter could be discovered, I had a shed erected, the earth beneath it sifted, and with a portion of this the contents of the buckets every morning mixed, as a man would roughly mix mortar. The whole operation of removing and mixing does not occupy a boy more than a quarter of an hour; and within ten minutes after its completion neither the eye nor nose can perceive anything offensive. This was the first observation I made. The next was this: that when all the earth, which did not exceed three cartloads, had been thus employed, that which had been first used was sufficiently dried to be used for the same purpose again; and it absorbed and deodorized the offensive matter as readily as

at the first time. And so singularly does this capability continue, that a portion of it is now being used for the *fifth* time for the same purpose; and thus all that offensive matter which otherwise would have been wasted in the vault, a nuisance to my house and the neighborhood, and a source, it may be, of sickness and disease, is now a mass of valuable manure, perfectly inoffensive to the eye and nose. I have taken fifty or sixty persons to see it without first acquainting them with its nature, and not one has guessed it. All have declared it to be wholly without offence. Two have handled and smelt that in the afternoon which had been mixed in the morning, without being able to discover its nature. And more than this, I have the same day submitted some to strong fire-heat; and that which, unmixed with earth, would, under such heat have been intolerable, in this mixed state emitted no offensive smell whatever. Again: a supply of manure for the garden is thus readily provided. A farmer and several laborers to whom I mentioned the following simple plan at once entered into it: the present vault is to be discontinued, and in the place of it there is to be under the seat a small enclosure of brick or stone, six or nine inches deep. To preserve the full value of the manure for the garden, this enclosure should be paved, or have a flat stone for its bottom. It would, of course, be closed with a door. On one side would be a small, rough shed, capable of covering and keeping dry a cart-load of earth for the purpose of mixing, and on the other side a similar shed into which the soil so mixed would day by day be thrown, for the purpose of drying. When dry, this would be used again,* and the uses of the two sheds be reversed. By thus repeatedly using it, and shifting it backwards and forwards from one shed to the other, one load of earth will be found sufficient for five persons certainly for six months, and, I believe, for twelve. This is the simplest, but by no means the least offensive mode of applying this remarkable agent."

The winds and the Trees.

Philosophers tell us that the winds gain velocity by unobstructed travel; and the fact is verified by the dreadful hurricane on the ocean, the raging tempest on lake, and sea, the awful simoon on the African desert, and the furious tornado on the American prairies—all which strew their paths with desolation, because there are no trees to check the violence of the winds. Even our sudden gusts in summer, when the air becomes too much rarified by heat, are often destructive to life and buildings.

All these besoms of destruction would be greatly modified could trees be planted in their paths. The trees getting the first strokes, and being flexible, would bend before the blast, breaking its force and making it pass harmlessly over buildings or other stationary objects. The electric fluid, so destructive of life and property, also is attracted by trees, and conducted into the ground; and, in fact, trees are the best protectors against all the

* We see no necessity for using it over again, and do not think it advisable to do so. This system of using dry earth for deodorizing night-soil is now practised by some of our citizens, with decided success.—Ed. Jour.]