

**CURIOUS CUSTOM.**—Willis says, in one of his letters from Germany:—"It was here (in the Church of St. Nicholas), by the way, that I first became aware of a very sensible German custom—that of concentrating the coughing and nose blowing during service time. The clergyman stops at different periods of his discourse, steps back from his pulpit stand, and blows his nose—the entire congregation imitating his example, and disturbing the service with the operation at no other time."

**AN INDIAN LADY.**—Some twenty years ago, we were travelling in Canada, and fell in with a small party returning from the Hudson's Bay territory, now known as Oregon. One of this party, Mr. H., of Vermont, had been absent twenty-eight years from civilized life, and during his residence in the territory had married a native woman, by whom he had several children, all of whom were with him. When they had arrived near the frontier of civilization, Mrs. H. objected to proceed further until her husband had ascertained that his relatives would receive her as his wife, and esteem her as such. No entreaties could dissuade her from her purpose. The desired assurance was, of course, obtained, and she cheerfully pursued her course to Vermont, and soon after became a member of the Presbyterian Church. So far as we know, she is an excellent wife, an affectionate mother, and a good neighbour.—*Com. Advertiser.*

**A NEW THOUGHT ABOUT EXPLOSIVE COTTON.**—We see by the *Démocratie Pacifique* of Paris, that the European governments are in no small repudiation about the discovery of the new explosive cotton. It puts a terrible power in the hands of the people, which can be manufactured very easily, and concealed in spite of police searches. The French Government wished to suppress it, but it found that it would have to suppress so many materials—all kinds of acids, cotton, hemp, paper, &c., that it would be impossible. Revolutions no doubt will be greatly facilitated by this invention, and it comes at a time when reform ideas agitate the masses more deeply than ever before. The fact is that the kings and rulers of the world will have to undertake the work of elevating peacefully the oppressed and miserable masses, or take consequences far more serious than have heretofore fallen upon them for the neglect of their duty.

**A PRETENDED GREATNESS OF ANCESTRY.**—Lord Thurlow had a just contempt for the vanity of new men pretending that they are of ancient blood; and some one attempting to flatter him by trying to make out that he was descended from Thurlow, Cromwell's private secretary, who was a Suffolk man, "Sir," said he, "there were two Thurlows in that part of the country, who flourished about the same time—Thurlow the secretary, and Thurlow the carrier; I am descended from the last."

**PAYING DEBTS BY LICENSES.**—A committee of the Common Council of Cleveland, Ohio, have hit upon an expedient to relieve that city of a present public debt, by licensing the sale of liquors, and thereby manufacturing private debtors by wholesale. They propose a plan which they say will check entirely the illegal sale of liquors, and produce a revenue of \$3000 a year to the city. The plan is to license all persons who shall be found on examination to be properly qualified, for from thirty to one hundred dollars a year, in proportion to the business done, and apply the proceeds to the liquidation of the city debt. The idea seems to be, so to increase the facilities for making drunkards legally, that there will be no inducement to make them illegally. The city is to be enriched by impoverishing the people. The public interest is to be promoted at the expense of the public morals. Such must be the result of a license law established for the sole purpose of raising a revenue.

**EXPORTATION OF PAUPERS.**—By recent publications in the *New York Courier des Etats Unis*, it is rendered indubitable that a general system of exporting to this country their criminals, paupers, and vagrants, but especially those unable to earn a subsistence, has been entered upon by the cities and villages of Germany, and that the cargoes of human wretchedness and destitution which have recently been landed on our shores are a part of the fruits of this nefarious and cowardly business. The evidence, we presume, says the *Tribune*, will soon be laid in due form before Congress and our Legislature among others; and we cannot doubt that efficient measures will thereupon be taken to put a stop to the imposition and deter those subsidised to favour it on this side of the water, from a farther prosecution of the fraud.

**MOB LAW IN ILLINOIS.—A WOMAN KILLED.**—The civil war in Massac and surrounding counties in Illinois, continues to rage. The brutal sacking of the Mormans is reacting fearfully in that State. Eighty "Moderators" recently took several of the "Regulators" prisoners, and confined them in jail. Some days afterwards the "Regulators" raised a large force and released their friends. They arrested a man named Matthias. His wife sought like a tigress to rescue him. She seized a gun, and in attempting to wrest it from the hands of a man, it went off and lodged the contents in her thigh. Reckless of the wound, she rushed upon her opponent to disarm him, when he struck her on the head with his gun. She fell, and died soon afterwards. Where are the men of Illinois? Or is there none worthy of the name in that mob-governed State?—*Rochester Republican.*

**A SAD MISTAKE.**—V. B. Howard, a worthy clerk in the Post Office at Dayton, Ohio, was last spring charged with purloining \$200 from a letter which Messrs. Chambers & Harris, of that city, deposited in the office to be sent to Springfield, but which never came to hand. The charge against

Howard, almost drove him to despair. He immediately resigned and volunteered for Mexico, where, being of a feeble constitution, he fell a prey to disease and died on the march from Matamoras to Camargo. Last week the letter with the money was returned from the dead letter office at Washington, having been misdirected.

**THE TEMPERANCE VICTORY IN PITTSBURGH.**—Every Ward in Pittsburgh gave a majority against the sale of liquors! The total majority in the city was 1214. The heart-cheering result is thus announced in the *Pittsburgh Morning Telegraph*: *Victory! Victory! Victory! Temperance forever.*—It is hereby announced to the friends of Temperance, throughout the length and breadth of the land, that on Tuesday, January 5th, 1847, the detachment of the American Cold Water Army stationed in Pittsburgh, achieved a signal triumph over the manufacturers and vendors of intoxicating liquors, in all the wards of the city, and totally routed their combined force—horse, foot, and dragons. This is glory enough for our day.—*Pittsburgh Paper.*

**EFFECTS OF A BAD NAME.**—The United States brig *Somers*, whose tragical end we have just announced, was, it will be remembered, the same vessel on board which young Spencer with two others were hung, several years since, for conspiracy and attempted mutiny. Since that time she has been called the "floating gallows." Her history has indeed been an eventful one. The appalling suddenness of her loss has thrown an air of wild romance around her career, which will doubtless attract the attention of some of our able novelists. It is stated that there have been persons employed on board of her, who affirm that the ghosts of the three men hanged to her yard arm constantly haunted the ship, and particularly in storms, paralyzing the crew.—*Springfield Republican.*

**CANAL TRADE OF BUFFALO.**—The *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser* says:—"The increase of the business of the Canal Office here has been immense, and the aggregate value of property cleared and left exceeds that of last year in the sum of \$12,000,000." The total value of the freight which left Buffalo by canal, is \$15,014,360. Of that which arrived there by canal, \$23,199,665. Aggregate, \$38,214,025. The business of Buffalo exceeds that of several of our large seaports.

**SUPPRESSION OF GAMBLING.**—The Legislature of Pennsylvania have just decided upon a measure, which, if carried out in its spirit, will contribute something to buttress up the public morals. The act proposes to fine every keeper of a gaming house, or tenement used for that purpose, whether he is engaged in it or not—a measure that will need the attention of landlords—and to afford every keeper of a gaming table the privilege of reflecting upon his ways in the solitary cells of the Eastern Penitentiary. The law is sufficiently stringent, and if those charged with the execution of it are at all faithful the good intent of the law-makers will be fully realized.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

**PROTESTANT MISSIONS.**—From the reports of various Missionary Institutions, for the year 1846, we learn that the whole number of ordained Missionaries, so far as reported, is eleven hundred and forty-seven; of whom sixty-three are laboring among the Indian Tribes, one hundred and eighty-six in Africa, thirty-eight in Western Asia, three hundred and forty in India and Ceylon, thirty-two in Burmah and Siam, thirty-three in China, one hundred and seventeen in the Pacific Islands, three hundred and five in the West Indies, and forty-three among the Jews. They are aided by twenty-one hundred and forty native assistants, and have under their care one hundred and eighty-four thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight communicants.

The European population of Algeria, which in 1831 only amounted to 3228, was in 1844 75,351; and the public revenue, which in 1831 amounted to 1,048,479 francs, amounted in 1844 to 17,695,996 francs.

The Turkish Government has had several varieties of cotton seeds, and men competent to superintend their culture, recently brought from America, for the purpose of trying the experiment of cultivating the American varieties of cotton in the different provinces of the empire, in which every kind of climate exists.

**STRANGE PHENOMENON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.**—On the night of the 4th ultimo, the master of a merchant vessel, when near Girgenté and Sciacca, saw, at a distance, a great light, which he at first supposed to be a vessel on fire. With the intention of giving assistance, he sailed towards the spot; and, to his great surprise, saw issuing from the sea an immense flame, with a large quantity of smoke, in the midst of which were globes of fire, which fell at a great distance, and with considerable noise. The flames appeared to be a male in circumference. They may have had some connection with the earthquakes which were felt about the same time on the coast of Italy.

**REVIVAL OF THE BOOKSELLING TRADE.**—At the annual sale of Mr. Murray, at the Albion Hotel, last week, the number of books disposed of wholesale greatly exceeded any demand made for the last seven years. We understand that Messrs. Longman had an equally active demand on a recent occasion. These are symptoms of a returning prosperity to that channel of intelligence which has too long been in a declining state.—*London Observer.*

**TUNNELLING THE ALPS.**—The *Moniteur Belge* announces, that experiments have been made within the last few days, in order to test the efficacy of a machine just invented for the purpose of effecting a new and speedy method of boring tunnels. It is proposed to apply this machine to the construction of the great tunnel about to be commenced for one of the Italian lines. The machine was placed in front of the web, and effected a bore to the depth of 13 centimetres in 35 minutes. At this rate the new invention will complete upwards of five metres of bore per day, and the proposed tunnel through Mount Cenis will be finished in the space of three years. The experiments have been repeated twice before several of the first engineers of France, and with the most complete success.

**A WEARY JOURNEY.**—The Copper Harbor Mail leaves Green Bay once a month, and is earned the whole distance by a man, on foot. For some two hundred and fifty miles of the route there is not a habitation, except perhaps a few Indian wigwams, and the mail carrier, in addition to the mail, carries two weeks' food, besides an axe, two blankets, and cooking and eating utensils. There is no road or trail, and on his first trip the carrier takes an Indian guide, and "blazes" the way so that he can keep the track on the other trips. The distance is over three hundred miles, and the Green Bay Advocate states that it takes two weeks to go through.