

Floods in Italy.
A correspondent of the "Daily News" gives a sad account of the suffering caused by the floods in Italy. Near Revere a huge gap had been formed in the embankment of the Po, and the water was rushing through like cataract and doing great damage. An attempt had been made to fill up this gap, and 750 metres out of a total of 800 metres had been completed, when the head engineer ordered the workmen to abandon the undertaking. The Po had been gradually rising, and ten minutes after the men left their work the water rushed over the new barrier opposed to its progress, and in an hour not a trace of that barrier could be seen. At Sernide the people seemed overwhelmed by despair. Fugitives from the inundated districts were crowded into the houses and typhus and small-pox were making frightful ravages. Just outside one of the churches the dead had been buried, the cemetery being under water. In a temporary hospital, the regular hospital being flooded, there were forty patients suffering from virulent small-pox and typhus, with but six mattresses, ten pillows, and a few scant coverlets among them.

Resignation of Bismarck.
The German Emperor has formally accepted Prince Bismarck's resignation of the Prussian Ministry of State. His Majesty has addressed to the Prince an Imperial rescript, dated the 21st ult., in which he says:—"In compliance with the application contained in your report of the 20th ult., I hereby relieve you from the Presidency of the State Ministry. You will continue to confer with me on the affairs of the Empire and its foreign policy, and will, in case of being prevented from appearing personally at a sitting of the Ministry of State, be authorized on your own responsibility to give your vote on matters concerning the interests of the Empire through the President of the Imperial Chancellery, Herr von Delbruck. The Presidency of the Cabinet devolves upon the senior Minister of State."

A Ghost-Seeker.
A remarkable instance of personal bravery was brought under the notice of the magistrate at Marlborough-street police court recently. "A tall and respectable-looking man" was charged with being drunk and disorderly. It appeared from the evidence of a police-constable that on the previous night, when on duty in Berkeley-square, he observed the prisoner ring the door bell at a house. On asking him what he wanted, he said he had been told the house was haunted, and he wanted to see for himself whether it was so or not. The prisoner, being called upon for his defence, denied the charge of drunkenness altogether. He was heard perfectly sensible, but having heard reports that the house in question was infested by ghosts, he took the liberty to ring the bell with the view of making inquiry as to the facts. It is impossible not to admire the boldness of a man who believing a house to be haunted actually rings at the door-bell in the dead of the night, taking the chance of the door being opened by a liveried apparition or something else equally disagreeable. The magistrate however, fined the ghost-seeker ten shillings, and it is perhaps as well that he received this gentle hint not to carry on his spiritual investigations at unseemly hours; for the ghost in the house is of itself quite enough nuisance to the other inhabitants of the dwelling, without their being disturbed at all hours by people anxious to be introduced to the mysterious stranger.

A Truthful Allegory.
A traveller was pursued by a unicorn. In his affright he fell, and, as a fallen man, caught at whatever was in his way, he caught the branches of a tree. He looked before himself, and saw a fearful precipice. He looked back and saw the unicorn ready to destroy him. He looked again before and saw a hideous dragon, with jaws ready to receive him. He looked at the roots of the tree, and saw two rats, one white, the other black, knowing alternately at them. He looked among the branches of the tree, and saw it filled with poisonous asps, ready to sting him; but from their lips dropped honey. Regardless of surrounding danger, he caught the honey, ate it, and perished. O man! see here thyself! the tree is life; the unicorn is death; the precipice, eternity; the dragon, the destroyer; the rats, day and night, numbering the hours of thy stay on earth; the asps, thy own bad passion; the honey, pleasure, of which thou partakest to thy eternal ruin.

Americans in Paris.
One of the citizens of the American republic, says the "Court Journal," got into difficulties at the Cafe de la Paix lately. With the graceful, free-and-easy custom of the Americans, he carefully diffused his person upon a couple of chairs, reclining his heels upon a table

on the Boulevards, and ordered his cooling drink in a peremptory tone, which elicited a brisk remonstrance from the "garcon." The American citizen felt himself bound to avenge the national honor, outraged by a mean waiter, and drew forth a revolver from his pocket and levelled it at the "garcon's" head. The weapon was wrested from his grasp by some people at the next table, and the Yankee was consigned to custody, whence he was released after a short incarceration. A lady of the same nationality, discovering a half-caste girl seated near her at the "table d'hotel," of the Hotel du Louvre, simply ordered the waiter to "turn out that nigger." The fawn-coloured young lady, who was "black, yet comely," coloured even through her swarthy skin. She rose to move, but the "garcon" informed the fair American lady that her request could not be complied with; whereat she summoned her brood around her, and sailed majestically out of the room, declaring that she would not reside in an hotel where she was exposed to the contamination of a colored person at the same table as herself.

Germany.
The German government is now considering the claims of the various German States to share in the captures made from the French during the late war. Bavaria, Saxony, and Wurtemberg have already been put in possession of the trophies which were won by their armies in the field, but the booty given up at capitulations has not yet been distributed. At Sedan the French destroyed all their military insignia except an eagle, which was found in a ditch, so that the booty to be divided consists only of guns and the arms and ammunition of the French troops. As the Bavarian army and the Saxon corps d'armee took part in this battle, they claim a share in the spoil. The only corps which could put forward a claim to divide the spoils of Metz with Prussia is the Hessian division, which has since been amalgamated with the Prussian army. The same is the case with the Baden corps, which fought at Strasburg. The Mecklenburgers, who were engaged at Toul, might claim the eagle of the Mobiles and the flag of a dragoon regiment which were given up at the capitulation of that town; but they, too, have been incorporated with the Prussian army. At the capitulation of Paris, 1,912 guns, but no flags, were given up to the German Troops, and a portion of these are claimed by the Bavarians, Saxons, and Wurtembergers.

THE STAR.

HARBOR GRACE, JANUARY 28, 1873.

We learn that the Legislature will meet for the despatch of business on Friday next.

No clue as yet having been obtained to convict any one of the recent cash robbery, placards have to-day been posted about town offering a reward of £100 for information that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the guilty party. It is to be hoped that the affair may soon be bereft of the mystery that clings to it.

We deem it necessary to call the attention of the "powers that be"—and whose duty it is not to shirk duty—to the miserable condition of the road, off the head of Harvey Street, known as Kitchen's Hill. The floods caused by recent soft weather have so destroyed the road in question, as to render it quite impassable for either man or beast. Such a state of affairs should not be suffered to exist, as parties residing in that locality are greatly inconvenienced thereby. It will be well to give the matter immediate attention.

THE "Ledger" of Saturday says:—"A Cable telegram on Wednesday announced that the Allan Company had accepted and signed the contract for the new Newfoundland mail service."

THE congregation of the Wesleyan Church here, through their trustees, have just made arrangements with Mr. Greenwood, travelling agent of T. F. Roome, Esq., Church and Chamber Organ Builder, Toronto, for the purchase of a first-class organ. The instrument is said to be one of the finest made, and the reputation of the Roome Manufacture standing high, we doubt not but that it will come up to expectation, and be found in every way suitable for the Church. For the reception of the organ several alterations will be necessary, as we understand it is to be erected where the present pulpit stands. The organ is to be an embodiment of all the recent improvements in tone and finish. In compass it will range from C.C. to F., having twelve stops, and in all three hundred and forty-one pipes;

and will take up considerable space, being of the following dimensions:—Height, thirteen feet; depth, six and a half feet, and frontage, nine and a half feet.
The cost of the instrument is \$700 or £175, and is to be delivered and fitted up here by the builder about the first of July next.

From the "New York" Herald of the 7th inst., we take the following sentence passed by Judge Boardman on the unfortunate Edward S. Stokes for the murder of James Fisk, jr. The Judge, it would seem, appeared deeply conscious of the solemnity of the occasion. He is said to have entered the Court on the fatal morning, with a countenance denoting extreme sadness. The culprit listened to the sentence with that indifference peculiar to one whose heart is steeled to sensibility, and was immediately after conveyed to the Tombs, from which he will be taken on the 28th of February, to expiate the awful crime for which he has been convicted.

Edward S. Stokes, you have been defended by the most eminent counsel, with extreme skill and devotion. You have been supported and strengthened by the sympathies of loving relatives and ardent friends. All that wealth, affection and industry could do for you has been cheerfully and well done. A jury, carefully selected, of intelligent, upright gentlemen, have listened patiently, and kindly to your account of the most terrible act, as well as to the other evidence put in your behalf, and they have found you guilty of murder in the first degree—the highest crime known to our law—in having caused the death of James Fisk, Jr., one year ago to-day. This verdict was not prompted by their judgment—not prompted by their hearts. I am certain to do each juror but justice in saying and assuring you that his concurrence in this verdict was the most painful act of his life. The result is not the fruit of unkindness to you, but a just respect for and obedience to the law and to the evidence in the case, even upon your own testimony. I am constrained to say that all the evidence sustains their conclusions and justifies their verdict. I am not conscious, so far as I am personally concerned, that I have urged the law in any respect against you. During the progress of the trial I have endeavored in all cases of doubt to give you the benefit of such doubt. To me remains the painful duty of pronouncing the judgment of the law, not alone as the punishment of your crime, but also that by your example others may take warning. I am sad at your unhappy fate, so young, so attractive in person, with so many fountains of joy yet untasted; still greater my sorrow to witness the unmerited disgrace you have brought upon your family and friends, for your disgrace is reflected upon them, who are pure—your dishonor, unjustly, it is true, but inevitably, stains their truth and virtue. It is a frightful legacy to leave after you—a spectre that death alone can vanquish. It were idle for me, if it were proper, to trace the path of impenitence to crime, to tell the tale of appetites unrestrained, of passion fierce, vindictive and unbridled. I cannot do it. Let the time which the law gives you be devoted to reflection on the past, to repentance of your sins and in preparation for that great change so fearfully near to you. Do not delude yourself with uncertain hopes of pardon or clemency. Edward S. Stokes, in obedience to the requirements of the law, this Court orders and directs that you be taken hence in the custody of the Sheriff of the city and county of New York to the prison from whence you came, and that you be there confined in close custody by said Sheriff till the 23rd day of February, 1873, and that upon that day between the hours of eleven in the morning and three in the afternoon you be hanged by the neck till you be dead, and may God have mercy on your soul.

[FOR THE HARBOR GRACE STAR.]

The Seal Killer's Song.
The seals! the seals! the beautiful seals!
We long with delight their furs to feel;
Catching them,
Killing them,
All on the ice,
With skill and art, dexterity nice,
'Tis all for our good, our country's weal,
We catch the seal—the beautiful seal!
The seal! the seal! the gold-giving seal!
That brings one and all a hearty meal.
Earned,
Verily,
We are quite glad;
There's scores in sight, and all to be had,
So work must we, and every death deal
To the seal! the seal! the lovely seal!
The innocent seal! supporting seal!
Filling our ship from deck to the keel,
Gratified,
Satisfied,
Dependancy flees,
And now for home!—we wait for a breeze,
Our thoughts with those who our absence feel,
Waiting for us to bring them the seal,
The seal! the seal! the plentiful seal!
Drunk with delight, we almost reel,
Buoyant,
Jubilant,
Happy are we,
Skimming the waves of the silv'ry sea
With our load of seals, beautiful seals!
Load of seals! inspiring seals!
R. BROWN.
Jan. 25, 1873.

Knowledge may increase sin if the heart be not educated as well as the head.

Latest Despatches.

OTTAWA, Jan 21.
The Canadian Pacific Railroad Scheme is reported to have reached a stage that insures the early commencement of the work.
MONTREAL, 21.
The Governor-General this afternoon visited the McGill University. The students drew his carriage by hand through the college grounds to the convocation Hall.
LONDON, 21.
Prince Arthur arrived at Rome yesterday.
Onslow and Whalley, two members of the English Parliament, were fined £100 each for publicly accusing Sir John Duke Coleridge of conspiracy to deprive the Tichborne claimant of his rights.
The London "Daily News" thinks that the lease of Samana Bay to an American company is not likely to give rise to any diplomatic complications.
The Swedish Diet was opened on Monday by the King, who, in his speech, expressed an earnest hope for the development of Scandinavian union.
The French and German boundary commission have ended their labors.
Garibaldi is suffering from Bronchitis.
Three Communists have escaped from Versailles prison.
Prince Napoleon, with his wife Clothild, visited Queen Victoria yesterday.

NEW YORK, 21.
General Wheaton's command had a battle with the Modoc Indians on Friday, and after fighting all day in a fog was forced to retreat with the loss of 40 killed and wounded.
Gold and Exchange steady.
The counsel of Foster the Carhook murderer in New York failed in an appeal for a new trial, and he will be hanged.
PARIS, 24.
It is a significant fact that the Orleans Princes on Tuesday, for the first time, attended Mass in commemoration of Louis Napoleon.
A Court Martial of Agiers condemned eight of Peleastro assassins to death, and twenty-seven to various terms of imprisonment. Three more condemned communists were shot at Paris, ten others are sentenced.
It is said that Eugenie and Prince Napoleon will be political guardians of the ex-Emperor's son.
New York, 22,—Gold 113½.
LONDON 25.
A despatch from Geneva says, Revd. Ewer Pusey, the well-known English divine, is dangerously ill, in that city. His friends have been telegraphed for. The doctor is in his 73rd year.
The River Seine is again very high; another inundation is feared.
Masses for the repose of the soul of Napoleon were celebrated in a number of churches in Paris on Wednesday; crowds attended.
There is extensive emigration to America among German Colonists in Russia.
The emigrant ship "Whitefleet," from London for Australia, with nearly 500 passengers on board, was run into at midnight, off Dunoon, by an unknown steamer and cut to the water's edge. Three hundred and twenty-one persons were drowned, including the captain; 89 were saved. The steamer passed on without offering assistance. She is believed to be a Portuguese steamer.
NEW YORK 25.
Destruction of property in Maryland and Pennsylvania by floods, is immense. General Gordon has been elected as Senator from Geneva.
NEW YORK 23.
Gold 113½.
A bill to construct ten new sloops of war has passed the Senate.
A bill abolishing Franking privilege has been introduced.
Heavy snow storm raging to-day in the North West and predicted to-night over England.

Muscular Prussians.
Amongst the numerous reasons given for the wonderful success of the Prussians in the war was their superior physique over the French. Some recent statistics show that not only were the men who fought before Sedan physically superior to their antagonists, but they were also superior to the Prussians of the past. The men in the German army at Sedan averaged three inches round the chest more than the French, and two inches more than the Prussians who fought at Waterloo. This surprising increase in the physical power of the people is attributed, and probably with justice, to the fifty years of stringent military training enforced on the entire male population. Here is a powerful argument in favor of a compulsory military system.

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Jan. 28—Mast Puntton & M
Jan. 25—Salt fish—Puntton 18—Minnie, G & Munu.

In modern maritime warfare it is frequently very desirable to conceal from the enemy an approaching steam vessel, the difficulty of doing which is often enhanced by the smoke from the funnel, which generally can be seen over a great distance. A device for discharging the smoke under water, by means of a blowing machine, has been tried in the Austrian navy with most satisfactory results. Of course this dispenses with the smoke-stack entirely. It is said also to secure a more uniform consumption of fuel, and greatly to lessen the liability of fire.

It cost the "Jubilee" folks at Boston \$3,500 to procure the big drum. A few days ago it was sold at auction for \$22.50 cents—not the cost of the pelts of the fifty and odd sheep used in its construction. At the same time the coliseum was sold under the hammer for \$10,000 which, it is said, is about one twentieth of its original cost. It will probably be some time before Boston has another Peace Jubilee. It cannot be said that all the sound and fury of this demonstration signifies nothing. It represents a huge deficit in the financial accounts of a good many Bostonians.
The estimated wealth of the most eminent writers of France, all of whom started in life without anything, is as follows: Victor Hugo, 600,000f; George Sand, nearly twice as much; Emile de Girardin, 3,500,000f; Adolphe Thiers, 1,000,000f; Alexander Dumas, 750,000,000f; Emmond About, 250,000; Alphonse Karr, 100,000; Jules Janin, 750,000f; Edouard Laboulaye, 100,000f; Victorien Sardou, 500,000f; Theophile Gauthier died a millionaire and the widows of Scribe and Ponsard live in affluence. But the widow of the celebrated Proudhon has to eke out a precarious living as a washerwoman.

PLATING WITH ZINC.—According to Bottger, copper and brass may be given a firmly adherent coating of zinc; Finally divided zinc is placed in a non-metallic vessel and covered with a concentrated solution of sal-ammoniac. This is heated to boiling, and the articles of copper or brass, previously cleaned, are then introduced. A few minutes suffice to produce a firm and brilliant coating. The powdered zinc is prepared by first melting the zinc, and then pouring the molten metal into a mortar and triturating it until it solidifies.