

**PROPERTY OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.**—The capital employed by the company is £1,265,063, and consists of stock standing in the names of the proprietors, £500,000; valuation of the company's lands and buildings, exclusive of Vancouver's Island and Oregon, £318,884. Amount expended up to September 16, 1856, in sending miners and laborers to Vancouver's Island, in the coal mines and other objects of colonization, exclusive of the trading establishments of the company, and which amount will be repayable by the government if possession of the island is resumed, £81,071. Amount invested in Fort Victoria and other establishments and posts in Vancouver's Island—this amount is not exactly ascertained—estimated at £75,000. Amount paid to the Earl of Selkirk for Red River settlement £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 in 1856, 10 per cent. The price of stock ex-dividend was:—July, 1847, £200; 1848, £200; 18 9, £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.*

**SOURCE OF THE NILE.**—The great problem of the source of the Nile, which has occupied the attention of the world during so many ages, may now be considered as definitely solved. Capt. Speke, who has just returned to England from an extended tour in Central Africa, in company with Capt. Burton, discovered a lake, called by the natives Nyanza, but by the Arabs Ukerewe, which appears to be the great reservoir of the Nile. It extends from 2 deg. 30 min. south, to 3 deg. 30 min. north latitude, lying across the equator in east longitude 33 deg. Its waters are the drainage of numerous hills which surround it on almost every side. The new lake washes out the Mountains of the Moon, as present existing in our atlases.

**COAL AND HEALTH.**—During the season of summer, when the atmosphere is warm and balmy, the cheerful breezes have fresco to dance through all our apartments and ventilation is effected upon natural and conclusive principles. The time, however, is at hand, when the approach of cold weather, when doors and windows must be closed to shut out the piercing wind, and when fires must be maintained in all dwellings to heat our sensitive frames. This is the season when means should be adopted for securing the requisite amount of the pure air of heaven, under all the circumstances of artificial heating, in every dwelling—public and private.

The importance of ventilation is generally recognised, as the evils that have been caused by dwelling in ill-ventilated apartments have been set forth in various publications. There are some facts, however, connected with this question, which are not well understood. Thus, many persons mistake warm for impure air; hence they do not make a distinction between the two, and do not seem satisfied that a room is habitable until they have expelled all the warmth from it. There can be no question, we believe, about the salubrity of warm dwellings in cold weather, if the air in them is or maintained in a pure condition. The circulation of air in a room is dependent upon the heat which is generated in fires, grate stoves or heaters. The hot air expands, rises, and seeks vent, and the cold air rushes in to supply its place. The grand secret of good ventilation, therefore, is a plentiful supply of fuel—an important fact too generally overlooked. The houses of the poor are kept close and ill-conditioned in cold weather, because the inmates cannot procure sufficient fuel for their wants. Coal is much an article of life and health, in the winter season, as food, and yet how few think of this! In those churches, schools and other public buildings, where fuel is saved at the expense of an inefficient supply of fresh air, a cent-wise and dollar-fool economy prevails; and this is the principle we wish to impress upon the public mind at this time. Arrangements for ventilation may be made in endless variety; without an abundant supply of fuel, neither comfort nor proper ventilation will be secured. Fuel is to ventilation, in cold weather, what steam is to an engine—its governing power.—*Scientific American.*

**GOLD RETURNS.**—\$1,400,000,000 is the grand total of the amount of gold brought from California and Australia, during the last ten years.