

results the most striking and useful are euded. Within these few months, also, the gigantic plan of an underground metropolitan railway, to connect all the termini in one London centre, has been in part accomplished, and, in a little more than a twelvemonth, a large portion of the merchandise, now encumbering the principal streets and roads, will pass to its destination through the bowels of the earth. In former times, when men began to build, their lease was said to make them free from the surface to the moon; they might compete with the workmen at Babel, and, in some cases, a 10th or 12th story has been reached. At present, we enterprising bipeds are as profound as we were sublime; and are taking possession of all under our feet as fearlessly as we once did of all over our heads; and thus, if the fashion lasts, London may be tripled in size without adding an acre to its circumference. As subterranean builders, however, we have been forestalled, for our ancestors, often without intending it, have gone towards the centre, joining arch to arch, and burying silent streets which, centuries ago, echoed to the tread of their inhabitants in the cheerful sunlight. The surface of the city has risen in a marvellous manner, so that when we dig out a new foundation the pickaxe is arrested against the solid wall or groined roof of fabrics long covered by the accumulating debris of forgotten generations. Thus, many of the churches of London proper are built over enormous masses of sanctuaries, wherein Saxons or Normans once worshipped.—*City Press*.

"PUT BY THAT STICK, MY MAN"—Young men would call upon him (Mr. George Stephenson) for advice or assistance, in commencing a professional career. When he noted their industry, prudence, and good sense, he was always ready. But hating foppery and frippery above all things, he would reprove any tendency to this weakness which he observed in the applicants. One day a youth, desirous of becoming an engineer, called upon him flourishing a gold-headed cane. Mr. Stephenson said, "Put by that stick, my man, and then I will speak to you." To another extensively decorated young man he one day said, "You will, I hope, Mr——, excuse me; I am a plain-spoken person, and am sorry to see a nice-looking and rather clever young man like you disfigured with that fine patterned waistcoat, and all these chains and fang-dangz. If I, sir, had bothered my head with such things when at your age, I would not have been where I am now."—*Men Who Have Risen*.

LIFE IN THE SEA.—Brimful of life at its surface, the sea would be encumbered if that prodigious power of production was not kept somewhat in check by the antagonistic power of destruction. Only imagine that every herring has from fifty to seventy thousand eggs! If every egg was to produce a herring, and every herring

fifty-thousand more, were there not an enormous destruction going on, the ocean would very soon be solidified and putrified. The great cetace drive them towards the shores, ever and anon diving into their ranks and swallowing up whole shoals. The whiting eat their fry; cod devour the whiting. Yet, even here, the power of the sea, an excess of fecundity, shows itself a still more terrible shape. The cod has up nine millions of eggs, and this creature, of formidable powers of maternity, has nine months of love out of twelve. No wonder that the fertility of this productive fish has created towns and colonies. But even then, what would the power of man be opposed to such fecundity? He is assisted by others, among which the starling takes chief rank. Then, again, the starling itself is a very fecund fish. This devourer cod has itself fifteen hundred thousand eggs. Another great devourer is not proportionally reproductive, and that is the shark; so Michel calls it *Le beau mangeur de la nature, mangepatente, le requin*. Viviparous, he nourishes the young shark in his bosom, his feudal heritor, who is born terrible and ready to die. Hence are sharks called in many countries dogs, and so we lately saw the French *chimpanzer* literally translated.—*Blackwood*.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM WILD GOOSE CHASE. Wild goose chase was a term used to express sort of racing on horseback formerly practised resembling the flying of wild geese; those birds generally go in train one after another—confused flocks as other birds do. In this sort of race, the two horses, after running the score yards, had liberty, which horse could get the lead, to take what ground jockey pleased, the hindmost horse being bound to follow him within a certain distance again on by the articles, or else to be whipped in the triers and judges who rode by; and whenever horse could distance the other won the race. This sort of racing was not long in common for it was found inhuman, and destructive to good horses, when two such were matched together. For in this case neither was able to distance the other till they were both ready to fall under their riders, and often two very good horses were both spoiled, and the wagers forced to be drawn at last. The mischief of this sort of racing soon brought in the method now in vogue of only running over a certain quantity of ground and determining the plate or wager by cutting in first at the winning-post. The phrase "wild goose chase" is now employed to denote a fruitless attempt, or an enterprise undertaken with little probability of success.

INSECT APPETITE.—The man who wishes to have a throat a mile long, and a palate all ways, might envy the feats performed in the world of insignificance. Some insects are endowed with an appetite so keen, and a digestion so