

There were retained for home consumption, and charged with excise duty accordingly, 46,267,457 lb. of hops, 40,298,513 bushels of malt, 175,690,557 lb. of paper, and 24,150,436 gallons of spirits. The average price of wheat in the year was 55s. 4d. per quarter; barley, 41s. 1d.; and oats, 25s. In 1856 wheat ruled at 69s. 2d., in 1855 at 74s. 8d., and in 1854 at 72s. 5d. In 1851 it was as low as 38s. 6d., and in 1852 at 40s. 9d. There were sold in the market towns of England and Wales 5,243,940 quarters of wheat, 2,262,733 quarters of barley, and 537,364 quarters of oats. £5,230,810 were coined at the Mint. The receipts of the Trustees of Savings Banks were £7,581,415, and the payments £8,375,095; the capital was £35,108,396. In England (population 19,304,000), there were 662,884 births, 420,019 deaths, and 160,500 marriages. In Scotland (population 3,064,550), there were 103,632 births, 61,927 deaths, and 21,313 marriages. At the end of the year there were 908,136 paupers in receipt of parish relief in England and Wales, a larger number than has occurred since 1850 and 1849. The Scotch paupers mustered 69,217 in number, and the Irish 50,582. Pauperism in Ireland has diminished most extraordinarily, as there were 620,747 at the commencement of 1849, since when the number has gradually declined. 212,875 persons emigrated—21,001 to the North American colonies, 126,905 to the United States, and 61,248 to Australia and New Zealand.

2. ANOTHER EXPEDITION TO THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

Mr. Roquette of Paris writes to Mr. E. R. Straznicky, Secretary of the Council of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, New York, in regard to the proposed Expedition of Dr. Hayes to the Arctic Regions. He says:—

"The papers you sent me apprise me of the new organization of the American Geographical and Statistical society, and at the same time of the fact, that upon the proposition of Dr. Hayes, one of the companions of the heroic and unfortunate Dr. Kane, your society has adopted in concert with other scientific institutions of the United States, the project of sending out a new expedition into the Arctic regions, for the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of the information furnished by the latter, particularly as to the existence of an open Polar sea, that is to say free from ice, which would either approach the Pole, or extend to that extremity of our globe, which, up to the present day, navigators have made vain efforts to reach.

From the resolution, adopted by the American Geographical and Statistical Society, I perceive that the expedition will probably leave in the spring of 1860, under the command of Dr. Hayes its promoter, and that its expenses will be covered by means of a subscription. The attachment which I have always felt for Dr. Kane and which he kindly shared, and the honor which your learned society has done me by electing me as their Honorary Member, leaves me ground to hope that they will allow me to place my name among the number of subscribers with a sum of five hundred franks, which I hold for their disposition.

I have already announced to the Geographical Society of Paris the truly national project conceived by the United States. I will profit by the new information contained in the numbers of the papers which I owe to your kindness, and will draw up a detailed account, which will probably appear in the *Nouvelles Annales des Voyages*. I shall always receive with gratitude the communications which you will be kind enough to make to me.

3. PROBABLE EXISTENCE OF AN OPEN POLAR SEA.

Dr. Hayes in a recent address before the American Geographical Society, read a letter from Prof. Agassiz, in relation to the open Polar Sea, in which that gentleman argued the existence of such a sea, in the following language:

I beg to add a word with regard to Dr. Hayes' expedition. I consider it as highly important, not only in a scientific point of view, but particularly so for the interest of the whale fishery. The organization of these huge inhabitants of the ocean seems to me to furnish the most direct proof that there is an open sea in the Arctic. The whales being warm-blooded, air-breathing animals, must come to the surface to breathe. They cannot live without it. Now it is well known that during the Winter they are not found outside—that is, to the South of the ice-beat of the Arctic seas. They retreat Northward during the cold season, and if the whole extent of that Arctic sea was covered with ice, they would necessarily perish during the long Winter. I do not know a more direct evidence of the presence of extensive open water in the northernmost regions of the globe, than the mode of life of the whales, and the discovery of a passage into that open water which would render whale fishing possible during the Winter, would be one of the most important results for the improvement of whale fishing. The argument may not strike forcibly one who is not acquainted with the structure of the whales, but to a physiologist it must be irresistible.

4. COAL FIELDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH AMERICA.

The London Athenæum, in a review of Prof. Rogers' "Geology of Pennsylvania," uses the following language:—

Questions of high economic value arise out of the possible development of the great coal fields of the United States, which, in the aggregate, comprise no less than 196,850 square miles,—added to which the British provinces contain 7,530 square miles. These coal areas are amazing, and may be productive of immense commercial results in the far future.—When we reflect upon what has been achieved by the produce of the coal fields of Britain, mere specks as compared with those of the United States, and in figures amounting to 5,400 square miles,—when we further consider the total coal fields of Europe, and find them to be only 8,964 square miles,—and then endeavor to anticipate the mining of the enormous fields of the United States upon an extensive scale, we are led to forecast a future of almost boundless enterprise for that wonderful country.

We may, indeed, form an estimate of the probable produce of the American coal-fields from some data afforded in this work. Averaging the total thickness of the workable coal in Great Britain at thirty-five feet, we have a total of workable coal equal to 190,000,000,000 tons. In the same way, estimating the total area of productive coal-fields of North America as 200,000 square miles (that is, inclusive of the British provinces, and averaging the thickness of good workable coal at 20 feet, we gain a result of 4,000,000,000,000 tons. Or, to make these results more appreciable: If we take the amount of workable coal in Belgium as 1, then that in the British Islands is rather more than 5, that in all Europe 8½, and that in all the coal-fields of North America is 111. This method of ratio is more intelligible than that of relative superficial magnitudes,—and we at once perceive that the United States possess more than twenty-two times our amount of coal.

V. Papers on Colonial Subjects, etc.

1. ANTIQUITIES IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR MINES.

We were shown by the Rev. Dr. Duffield, a few days since, a specimen of a miner's skid, taken from an ancient working near the Quincy Mine at Portage Lake, Lake Superior. The peculiar interest attaching to this relic is not in its appearance, but in its great antiquity. It was found at the bottom of an excavation about six feet in depth, which, in the lapse of time, had become filled with vegetable mould. The excavation in this manner having acquired a level with the surface of the surrounding soil, a pine tree had sprung up and grown to a great size, which, upon being cut, showed, by its consecutive circles, the great age of four hundred years. If it were possible to number the years that it would require to fill an excavation of six feet with nothing but decaying vegetable matter, we might approximate to the age of this wonderful piece of wood. An idea can be formed, however, by imagining how long it would take a certain surface to become covered with a spontaneous growth of grass or shrubs; then allow this growth to die from the severity of the climate, sterility of the soil, or any other cause, and go to decay, to impart, by its own decomposition, an enriching influence to the soil, upon which shall spring up another similar growth to follow the former to decay, and so on till these successive growths and decayings shall have formed a soil of six feet in depth; then add to this the age of the tree that was found growing upon the surface—four hundred years—and you have the same perception of the length of time that this insignificant stick has lain hidden from men's eye. When found it was surrounded by other similar skids, together with the rude chisels and the whet-stones of the ancient miners. The other skids fell to pieces upon being handled, but this one was preserved from decay by having been charred. It is between three and four feet in length, and about four inches square. It is made of pine wood, and is so dried that its weight will not exceed a couple of pounds. It is supposed that these skids were used by the ancient miners in raising the blocks of copper to the surface of the ground.—*Det. Free Press.*

2. ANCIENT MINES IN NEBRASKA.

An interesting discovery of ancient mines has been made in Nebraska, about seven miles from Wyoming. They are the most extensive operations of ancient miners ever discovered on the continent. For miles in extent the whole country is literally torn up and thrown into the most fantastic and promiscuous ridges, hillocks, gutters, trenches, shafts, &c. There are remains of furnaces, chimneys, stone walls, and earth houses; fragments of jugs, glass bottles, and many other things too numerous to mention. Rocks have been drilled and blasted, evidently with some explosive mate-