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E variis sumendum est optimum. -Cic.

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Destruction of Vermin by Anesthetic Agents.

M. Doyere has read a paper before the Paris Academy of Sciences, on the destruction of vermin by anesthetic agents, applied particularly to the ridding of wheat of insects. A Paris letter says that extensive experiments were made at Algiers, with the following results:

"Experiments have been made at Algiers on the most extensive scale with these objects, especially to ascertain their effects on cereals. It was ascertained that two grammes of chloroform or sulfure of carbon per metrical quintal of wheat were sufficient to destroy in five days' time all insects in wheat; with five grammes of sulfure of carbon per metrical quintal, the destruction takes place in 24 hours. The action of chloroform is slower in consequence of the density of its vapour, which impels it downwards and keeps it in the lower portion of the wheat. The action of sulfure of carbon and chloroform may be so prompt as to be instantaneous if larger portions be employed. The mass of grain operated on so far from being a difficulty, rather simplifies the operation. Experiments on 11,600 hectolitres of barley at once; one hundred pounds of the sulfure of carbon were used, which required twenty minutes to introduce into the mass. These operations may be used successfully even when the heap of grain is simply covered with a watery proof cloth which is closed with clay near the ground, on every side. The anesthetic agents do not merely kill the insects but they destroy the larvæ and the germs in the eggs, while the grain operated on retains all its germinating properties; the fetid odor of the sulfure of carbon is soon dissipated; and after they have been exposed two or three days to the air and moved occasionally with a shovel, no trace of it remains. These grains so treated, when ground and made into bread, cannot be distinguished from grain which has not been exposed to the influence of anesthetic agents. Animals ate the barley while it was still fetid, with such an appetite and avidity as to indicate that the odor and the savor it retained were far from being disagreeable to them. M. Doyere states that the sulfure of carbon possesses no physiological action which survives its anesthetic influence; it is an energetic anesthetic without any consecutive toxic effect. He believes, too, that the sulfure of carbon prevents grain from heating itself and fermenting in granaries; on this point he promises to make further experiments."

A Thrilling Incident.

Returning from a visit in New Orleans we were fortunate enough to secure passage in a fine steamer, with but few passengers. Among the ladies, one especially interested us. She was the widow of a wealthy planter, and was returning with only one child to her father's house. Her devotion to the child was very touching, and the eyes of her old black nurse would fill with tears as she besought her mistress "not to love that boy too much, or the Lord would take him away from her."

We passed through the canal of Louisville, and stopped for a few minutes at the wharf, when the nurse wishing to see the city, walked out on the guard, at the back of the boat, where, by a sudden effort, the child sprang from her arms into the terrible current that sweeps into the falls, and disappeared immediately. The confusion which ensued attracted the attention of a gentleman who was sitting in the fore part of the boat quietly reading. Rising hastily he asked for some thing the child had worn. The nurse handed him a tiny apron she had torn off in her efforts to retain the babe in her arms. Turning to a splendid Newfoundland dog that was eagerly watching his countenance, he pointed first to the apron, and then to the spot where the child had gone under. In an instant the noble dog leaped into the rushing water, and also disappeared. By this time the excitement was intense, and some persons on the shore, supposing that the dog was lost as well as the child, they procured a boat and started off in search of the body. Just at this moment the dog was seen far away with something in his mouth. Bravely he struggled with the waves, but it was evident his strength was failing fast, and more than one breast gave a sigh of relief as the boat reached him, and it was announced that he had the child, and that he was alive. They were brought on board—the dog and the child.

Giving a single glance to satisfy herself that the child was really living, the young mother rushed forward, and sinking beside the dog threw her arm round his neck, and burst into tears. Not many could view the sight unmoved, and as she addressed and kissed his shaggy head, she looked up to his owner and said:

"O, sir, I must have this dog! I am rich take all I have, everything, but give me my child's preserver."

The gentleman smiled, and patting his dog's head said, "I am very glad, madam, he has been of service to you, but nothing in the world would induce me to part with him."

The dog looked as though he perfectly understood what they were talking about, and giving his sides a shake, laid himself down at his master's feet, with an expression in large eyes that said plainer than words, "No, nothing shall part us!"

The Hobs' and the Nobs'.

Hobs was synonymous with good cheer, true hospitality, a warm fireside, and a hearty welcome, without the most distant approach to Snobism. He was one of whom you could make a friend; and who would not delight to have the Hobs' for friends? The Nobs', on the other hand, with their perpetual strain to be what they could not, and their perpetual struggle to appear what they were not, did not know how to give a hearty welcome; and—for there is no greater vulgarity than over-gentility—were, to speak plainly, atrocious snobs. As for having a friend, or being a friend, that was a vulgar comfort; for friendship, to people without heart, appears familiarity, in which a Nobs would never condescend to indulge.—"Such is Life," by Doubleday.

Bathing.

Once a week is full enough for a decent white man to wash himself all over; and whether in summer or winter, that ought to be done with soap, warm water, and a hog's hair brush, in a room showing at least seventy degrees Fahrenheit.

Baths should be taken early in the morning, for it is then that the system possesses the power of reaction in the highest degree. Any kind of bath is dangerous soon after a meal, or soon after fatiguing exercise. No man or woman should take a bath at the close of the day, unless by the advice of a family physician. Many a man, in attempting to cheat his doctor out of a fee, has cheated himself out of his life—aye, it is done every day.

The best, safest, cheapest and more universally accessible mode of keeping the surface of the body clean, besides the once a week washing with soap, warm water, and hog's hair brush, is as follows:

As soon as you get out of bed in the morning, wash your face, hands, neck and breast, then, in the same basin of water, put your feet at once for about a minute, rubbing them briskly all the time; then, with the towel, which has been dampened by wiping the face, feet, &c., wipe the whole body well, fast and hard, mouth shut, breast projecting. Let the whole thing be done within five minutes.

At night when you go to bed, and whenever you get out of bed during the night, or when you find yourself wakeful or restless, spend from two to five minutes in rubbing your whole body with your hands, as far as you can reach in every direction. This has a tendency to preserve that softness and mobility of skin which too frequent washings of the skin will always destroy.—*Halt's Journal of Health.*

As it has been definitively determined, that the Great Eastern will make six trips to Portland, we hope to be able to state in our next number, that arrangements have been completed in England for a similar trip to Europe. Tourist tickets will, we believe, be authorized in stating, be issued on this side of the Atlantic for trips to England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Italy, and the Rhine, extending over a period of three months—the trips in each case costing only half the ordinary fare.

Such an opportunity of visiting the old country has certainly never before been presented, and it will not be again unless the success of the first warrants a repetition of the trip, of which, at the present time we have not the shadow of a doubt. But as there may be only one such trip, intending tourists should arrange to take advantage of the first, of which full particulars will be published in our next.—*Canadian Railway Guide.*

We have to announce the following heart-rending affair:—On Thursday evening of last week, seven young ladies, residing in Waterville, went into what is called Crummett's stream, about one fourth of a mile from Waterville Village, for the purpose of bathing, and in a very few moments four of the seven found a watery grave. The bank is quite steep, and it is supposed that one or two of them ventured beyond their depth, and the others were drowned in attempting their rescue. Three of the bodies were found a short distance from the spot, and the other was found in the stream. All efforts to resuscitate them proved fruitless. Two of the young ladies drowned, were daughters of Mr. B. F. Soule; and the other two were daughters of Mr. Grant, a piano-forte

manufacturer) now at work in Boston, but who resides in Waterville. Mrs. Grant, the mother of two of the girls, rushed into the water to rescue them, and was herself saved with great difficulty, nearly exhausted.—Their ages varied from eleven to fourteen.

MASONIC.—The Masonic order in the United States numbers three hundred thousand persons, and includes a large proportion of all the distinguished civil, military, and professional men. The price asked for Mount Vernon and the Tomb of Washington, is \$200,000. It has been proposed in Virginia that the Freemasons make up the sum necessary to purchase it, by the subscription of a dollar or less from each individual. In view of what Mr. Everett has done and will do, twenty-five cents from each member should answer every purpose.—*Boston Journal.*

The Freemasons of the 46th British Regiment, now stationed at Windsor, England, have in their possession the original Bible belonging to No. 227 of the Irish Constitution, once in existence in that corps, upon which George Washington—afterwards Commander-in-Chief of the United States—was initiated into the rites of Freemasonry. This book was taken in 1777, during the American war, by our troops, and honorably restored to the Lodge of the 46th, with a military escort as a guard of honor.—*Boston Gazette.*

His Majesty King Kamehameha, was initiated in the Lodge Le Progress de l'Océanie, Sandwich Islands, on the 14th Jan. last.

POPULAR AND PRACTICAL RELIGION IN THE ENGLISH CHURCH.—English Bishops are making themselves useful to the sailors—and do not hesitate even to expose and denounce social vices and tyrannies. The following paragraphs are from an English letter in the Philadelphia Enquirer:—

"The Bishop of London preached at a large meeting at Whitechapel, on behalf of St. Paul's ship-church for seamen. The object was to secure a permanent chaplain's stipend. The necessary amount will soon be made up; \$500 was collected at the doors, to begin with, and Admiral Hope threw a cheque for \$250 into the plate, all under the influence of the Bishop's fervid address; which closed by his saying that it was impossible to enumerate what we owe to sailors. When we are sitting comfortably by our firesides at home, said the Bishop, we are defended abroad by the brave men on board our men-of-war, who expose their lives to all kinds of hardships and temptations—an argument which is alone sufficient for zealously spreading the gospel among them. But it is not only to seamen on board of men-of-war we are indebted; to those in the merchant service England owes the wealth she enjoys, and the great place she fills among nations. We should never forget what she owes to the bodies and souls of those whose hard hands and brave hearts have secured advantages which make England the pride of nations and the occupier of a great post in commerce. Though it has been once supposed that sailors were not religious, yet that fallacy is being gradually exploded, there being no profession more adorned by faithful servants of Christ." The Bishop of Ripon, in a sermon at Hanover Square Church, on behalf of the over-worked dress makers and milliners, lashed his hearers unmercifully for their inhumanity, in giving orders which taxed the physical powers of females beyond human endurance—beyond what any American slaves are compelled to submit to; as Mrs. Stowe was reminded when first over here. Palmerston's bishops are certainly fearless men, and aim at rooting out social cankers rather than breaking lances about subtle dogmas. If poor wretches, prematurely hurried into the grave, are white-skinned, they certainly deserve some share of tender sympathy—at least so seems to think Bishop Bickersteth."

Interesting to Mariners.—The shipowners and experts in nautical matters were very much interested on Monday by the exhibition at the Merchants' Exchange, New-York, of Capt. Cavendy's Tripod for Zenith observations. This method of determining the Latitude or Longitude at sea during a fog, or when the horizon is for any cause invisible, is at once simple and accurate, and the expense of the instrument is comparatively trifling. It was tried on the steam ship Washington during her last voyage, and found to work admirably.—*Journal of Commerce.*

THE CROPS. The Chicago Journal, which from its position, is capable of forming a correct judgment upon the agricultural yield of the present year, says the largest crop of wheat that has ever been harvested in this country is now being gathered. The aggregate yield will, it is now manifest, exceed by hundreds of thousands of bush-

els that of the most plentiful harvest that has ever blessed the labors of American husbandry. The corn crop, too, promises exceedingly well, and will, we doubt not, be as much in advance of any former year as is that of wheat. Oats and barley are likewise reported as unusually good and abundant.

Napier and the Juggler.

We give an anecdote illustrative of the unparalleled dexterity of the Indians with the sword, as well as of Napier's simplicity of character. After the Indian battles, on one occasion, a famous juggler visited the camp, and performed his feats before the General, his family and staff. Among his performances, this man cut in two with a stroke of the sword a lime or lemon placed in the hands of the assistant.

Napier thought there was some collusion between the juggler and his assistant. To divide by a sweep of the sword on a man's hand so small an object, without touching the flesh, he believed to be impossible, tho' a similar incident is related by Scott in his romance of the Talisman.

To determine the point, the General offered his own hand for the experiment, and he held out his right arm. The juggler looked attentively at the hand, and said he would not make the trial.

"I thought I would find out!" exclaimed Napier.

"But stop," said the other, "let me see your left hand."

"The left hand was submitted, and the man then said firmly, 'If you will hold your arm very steady, I will perform the feat.'"

"But why the left hand, and not the right?"

"Because the right hand is hollow in the centre, and there is a risk of cutting off the thumb; the left is higher, and the danger will be less." Napier was startled.

"I got frightened," he said; "I saw it was an actual feat of swordsmanship, and if I had not abused the man as I did before my staff, and challenge him to a trial, I honestly acknowledge I would have retired from the encounter. However, I put the lime on my hand, and set out my arm steadily. The juggler balanced himself and with a swift stroke cut the lime into pieces. I felt the edge of the sword on my hand as if a cold thread had been drawn across it; and so much," he added, "for the swordsmen of India, whom our fine fellows defeated at Mecanee."

This anecdote is certainly a proof of the sincerity of an honest mind, ready to acknowledge error, and bravery and calmness in explaining that error.

Working His Passage.

A tall awkward-looking chap, just from the Green Mountains of Vermont, came on board one of the splendid North River boats at Albany. His curiosity was amazingly excited at once, and he came edging "peeking," as he called it, into every nook and corner on the boat. The Captain's office, the engine room, the water closets, the barber's shop, all underwent his inspection; and then he went on deck, and stood looking in amazement at the lever beam, the chimneys, and the various "fixings," till at last he caught sight of the bell. This was the crowning wonder and he viewed it from every position, walked around it, got down on his knees, and looked up into it, and exclaimed:

"Wall, rally, this beats the bell on our meetin' house a great sight!"

By this time the attention of the captain and several of the passengers were attracted to this genius.

"How much would you ask to let a feller ring this bell?"

"You may ring it for a dollar, sir," said the captain.

"Wall its a bargain, all fair and agreed, and no backing out."

"It's a bargain, sir," said the captain. Our hero went deliberately and brought a seat and took hold of the bell rope and, having arranged everything to his satisfaction, commenced ringing, slowly at first, and gradually faster and faster, till every body on board thought the boat was on fire, and rushed on deck, screaming with alarm.

There stood the captain and there sat the "varmounter," ringing away, first slow and then fast, and then two or three taps at a time. The passengers began to expostulate; the captain said it was a bargain. But the passengers became urgent that the eternal clangor should be stopped. All the while there sat our hero undisturbed, ringing away more ways than a cockney chime-ringer ever dreamed of. At last the captain began to think it time to stop the simplation; but his answer was:—

"A fair bargain no backing out" and he rang away for dear life.

"Well," says the captain, "what will you take to stop?"

"Wall, cap'n, I guess I sheant lose nothing if I take five dollars and a free passage to New York, but not a darned cent less."

"Well, walk down to the office and get your money and a passage ticket," said the cap'n.

OPENING OF THE BEND AND SHEDDING RAILWAY.—The locomotive ran over the track from Shediac to Moncton, a distance of seven miles on Saturday last. The road is now ready for traffic, and from the complaints we heard from the Westmorland Times about the delay in completing this section, in order that the "winter Railroad" out of St. John might be finished, we hope, now that the cars are running, it will pay, at least, working expenses. If it will not, then, all we have to say is, that the great outcry against the works at this end of the line was mere hush. We like to see a spirit of fair play, but when a petty feeling of malice is displayed towards a great undertaking, merely because the men who urged it forward possessed certain political views, it is almost time to proscribe party and party feelings altogether. If the public good must be made a secondary consideration, then it is high time the people should be informed of the fact.—*New Brunswick.*

Tremendous Explosion at Halifax.

On the return of the steamer Creole from Windsor on Saturday evening, we were informed that the Merchants' Powder Magazine, situated in the rear of the town, and in the vicinity of the New Barracks and the Government Magazines, had exploded about one o'clock on the morning of Friday last, with a terrific noise, which was felt all over the City, demolishing houses, partially destroying others, and shattering the glass in every direction. One of our informants states the gas which was burning in the Hotel was instantly put out, and the report resembled a heavy clap of thunder. Since then the following particulars have been received:—(N. Brunswick.)

HALIFAX, Aug. 14.—Merchant's Powder Magazine, containing the whole stock of Halifax, exploded with a terrific concussion, shortly after midnight last night. One man was killed, and fifteen injured; five houses were demolished, and ten others partially destroyed. The government magazines and barracks were much shattered, and nearly all the windows in the North part of the city were broken. The damage is estimated at \$100,000. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

The most intense excitement prevailed throughout the city for hours. Many persons were thrown from their beds, and others bewildered, rushed to the streets for safety, imagining an earthquake had occurred.

"Guilty or not guilty?" asked a Dutch Justice. "Not guilty." "Den vat do you here? Go about mit your bizness."

INK, INK.

A NEW IMPERIAL CHEMICAL WRITING INK.

Warranted not to Injure by Freezing.

THE want of a good description of Black Writing Ink has been long and severely felt in this Province; one great difficulty is, that ink now in use is completely useless after freezing; another is, that it corrodes any pen except gold, destroying pens very fast; it will also become thick after being exposed to the air,—this cannot be avoided on account of the ingredients most ink is composed of.

The subscriber begs leave to inform his customers and the public generally, that he has manufactured in Canada, a fine Chemical Ink, which is warranted not to injure by freezing—in fact, after freezing some five or six times, it becomes blacker—making it the best ink for this climate; it is also warranted not to corrode, making a saving in Pens of 50 per cent. It being a Chemical Ink, it is free from the annoyance of sediment, causing no trouble in cleansing bottles. In writing, you can perceive a slight shade of blue, causing it to show free and easy.—Government Offices, Banks, and Merchants in Canada have pronounced it superior and cheaper by 25 per cent. than any ink they can import. Merchants in different parts of the Province will find it much to their advantage to buy this ink instead of importing, as it will insure them a larger profit, quicker sales, and they can recommend it to be so well adapted to this climate. It is put up in bottles, and retailed in—Pyramid 41, Pens 1s. 6d., Quarts 2s. 6d., or by the Gallon. A large discount made to wholesale purchasers.

Orders received from any part of the Province previous to 1st September next, can be supplied this Fall. The subscriber warrants it as above described, or the money will be returned.

R. S. MILLAR,
Agent for New Brunswick,
Fredericton, Aug. 12, 1857.