

was suspected, and after charging him with the deed, which he denied, the captain asked him to eat of the meat, which he declined. Some one of two of the passengers died. When the vessel arrived at Charleston, the cook was arrested, and told for trial. The mate of the vessel was not to be found, and no one knew his name, or where he had gone. The cook was brought to trial. A New England lawyer defended him. I was present at the trial and the only evidence against him, was the fact that he refused to eat the poisoned meat. All the eloquence of his young attorney could not save him. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hung. I visited him in prison, and heard him many times, assert his innocence. He was allowed a Minister of the Gospel to visit him, to whom he asserted his innocence in English, so convincing, that on the scaffold he stated his firm belief that he was innocent. I saw him hung and the last words he uttered, I shall never forget— "I die an innocent man," said he, in a solemn and convincing tone that seemed to carry conviction through the spectators, of his innocence, but nothing could save him. Many years passed, and this scene was burnt in the thoughts of those who witnessed it, but I could never forget it— We all remember the pirates who were hung in this city years ago. One of them was Gibbs, who confessed that he was a mate of that schooner, put to sea in the year 1781, and led on the arrest of the vessel at Charleston. This is no fiction, but a melancholy fact—and witnessed by the writer; and is one of the many instances of *Ignis maris*—the result of circumstantial evidence.—[Boston Whig.]

THE STARS AND THE EARTH.

Light waves 213,000 miles in a second. There is no one to see the moon till a second, and a quarter after she is actually above the horizon, nor to see for eight nor Jupiter for fifty-two minutes, nor Uranus for two hours. The light of the nearest fixed star is three years in coming to us. Light of a star of the seventh magnitude travels 150 years before it reaches our eyes. The very ray the reader will behold to night quitted the star about the time that Charles the Second hid himself in the oak. The ray of a star of the fourth magnitude must have started for this island by sea, to be visible to us now. The conclusion, when applied to each of the former positions, gives the following results:—We do not see the moon as it now is, but as it was one and a quarter before; i.e. the moon may already have been dispersed into atoms for more than a second, and we shall see its entire and perfect. We do not see the sun as it now is, but as it was a second and a quarter before. Jupiter, as it was fifty-two minutes before; Uranus as it was more than two hours before; the star in Centaur as it was three years ago; Vega, as it was nine and a quarter years; and a star of the twelfth magnitude as it was four thousand years ago.—The Stars and the Earth: or, Trajectories on Time, Space, and Eternity.)

A WORD TO BOYS

The learned Bacon says: "Boys, did you ever think of this great world, with all its wealth and woe; with all its mines and mountains, oceans, seas and rivers; with all its shipping, its steamboats, railroads and magazines of goods, with all its millions of darkly groping men, and that all the science and progress of ages, will soon be given over to the hands of the Boys of the present age? boys like you assembled in school rooms, or playing without them on both sides of the Atlantic? Believe it, and look abroad upon your possession. The Kings, Presidents, Governors, Statesmen, Philosophers, Ministers, Teachers, Men of the future, are all Boys, whose feet are yours, cannot reach the floor, when seated on the benches upon which they are learning to master the monosyllables of their respective languages."

The Trappists.—Mr. Migg, at a late meeting of the New York Farmer's Club, read a report from a late number of the Paris *Times* relative to the Trappists at Staoueli, showing most excellent farm management. Founded with 2000 acres of cultivated land in 1815, on an amount of but little more than 30,000 francs a year, the Trappists have obtained an income which may now be estimated at 250,000 francs per year; and yet they have a large grange for travellers, and receive ten visitors a day. All the colonies without employment, the convalescents from the hospitals and the indigent are sent to and there work, sowing and reaping, no one has ever been refused. The Trappists have increased the value of their estates to the value of 100,000 francs. They sell a surplus of cattle, which are much sought after, and Staoueli meat is everywhere considered the best. They have planted 3,000 mulberry trees, 1,000 fruit trees, and, as an experiment, three acres of vines. They have cultivated and sown 700 acres, of which 400 are cleared and laid down for pasture, 117 for wheat, 27 planted for coppice wood; finally, 300 cleared and remaining fallow. They rear 1007 swine, of which 50 are African or European swine, hogs, and cows, 600 rams, ewes, and lambs, 2000 chickens, 70 pigs, and 150 ducks. They have 1,100 individuals, of whom 60 belong to the religious order, 30 workmen, and 10 visitors. They have erected a square building as a monastery, a large and handsome chapel, a farm, mills, various work-hops for smiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, turners, a bake-house, and wash-house, being together a building of 146 feet in length, hucksheds, and a large inn on the roadside for travellers. The value of these buildings exceeds 500,000 francs.

VITAL STATISTICS.—A statistical report, published by order of the State of Massachusetts gives the following facts in relation to the duration of life in the several trades and professions:—The average age of the clergymen was 64.07 years; of the gentlemen without professions 65.20; Merchants 55.67; blacksmiths 51.09; carpenters 48.91; coopers 51.21; harness makers 38; mill-wrights 49.50; printers 40.25; printers 32.50; sail-makers 42.33; shoe-makers 42; tailors 51.40; tanners 37; laborers 49; fishermen, 45.14; seamen 48.76; female domestics 30.60; dress-makers 29.87; ladies 70; milliners 41; seamstresses 38.83; and tailoresses 38.71 years. In this abstract no person under 20 years of age is included, as it is supposed that occupations have no particular influence before that time.

Scientific.

A NOVEL AND USEFUL DISCOVERY IN IRON.—Mr. Stephenson, after a variety of experiments, has discovered that the cold blast is much superior to the hot blast iron. In the construction of the level bridge at Newcastle-on-Tyne, which connects the York and Newcastle with the Berwick railway, he ascertained that the superiority of the one over the other was in proportion of 9 to 7. He also ascertained that pig-iron 3, is better than pig-iron 1, notwithstanding the latter carrying more money in the market.—[English paper.]

A MOST COMFORTABLE INVENTION—AN ELEGANT SHOE.

A friend has called our attention to an invention which appears likely to become universally adopted, as it certainly deserves to be. The name which the deserving inventors, Messrs. DuPont and Hyatt, of this city, have given to it is the "Congress shoe." It is made to fit the foot and ankle with elegant precision, close as a stocking, and yet when drawn on the foot there is no lacing or buttoning, the usual annoyance being dispensed with by the substitution of gorges of gum elastic shirred cords attached to the uppers at both sides, and so elastic as to admit the foot without the least trouble, affording a perfect fit, and acting at the same time as an elastic brace to the arch joint, greatly facilitating the migratory powers of the wearer. In addition to its great comfort and convenience it is elegant in appearance, and does not cost more than the ordinary heel shoes and boots. At the South where high boots are both unnecessary and uncomfortable, the Congress shoe will have great favour and we predict for it, at no distant day, universal adoption.—[Farmer and Mechanic.]

IMPROVEMENT IN LEATHER.

The durability which tanning gives to leather, without destroying its elasticity, is an illustration of the adaption of one substance to enhance the value of another. The immense consumption of leather, and the great difficulty in augmenting its supply, render its improvement in quality of an of very importance. Various efforts have been made to lessen the time, labor, and expense of tanning leather. They have been successful in a degree; but I am not aware that any very decided improvements have been made by giving to the leather any greater durability. A gentleman, of German birth, who has had much experience as a practical tanner, has been for three or four years past experimenting on leather. He extracts the tanning with greater facility, and in greater quantity, by the aid of a moderate portion of alkali. The liquid, after wards undergoes a fermentation when it becomes ready for the immersion of the hides. The time required for the tanning of hides is thirty days; but by the aid of Lander's air pump, the time is reduced to three, four, or five days. Some have spent much money in attempting to vacuum the air after the hides have been immersed in the liquid. In this way but very little effect is produced. If, however, the air is first exhausted, and the tanning liquid then let in upon the hides, it will readily enter the pores of the leather from which the air has been extracted. Mr. G. the inventor of this process, considers that tanning, in the ordinary method, crystallizes in the pores, and thus lessens the elasticity of the leather, and cuts the fibre under the hammer of the shoemaker, and under the pressure of the wearer. Fermentation destroys the tendency to crystallize, and gives a much increased ability for the leather. Mr. G. estimates the leather made by this process to be 20 to 50 per cent superior to any other.

SUBMARINE EXPLOSION IN THE THAMES.

The Harbor-master, Capt. Fishes, has within the last few days, completed the removal of three sunken wrecks, which have for some considerable time greatly impeded the navigation of the river in the Lower Hope. Their removal was effected by submarine explosions, of various charges, averaging from 50 to 500 pounds, fired by means of galvanic battery. An immense shoal of fish was passing the spot, and nearly the whole of them were blown out of the water to the extent of 80 feet, the circumstances being followed by the raising of a huge column of water to about as great an altitude, which emitted a large portion of the destroyed wreck as if from the force of a volcano. The river from London-bridge to the Nore is now perfectly free from obstruction.—The dangerous shoal of hard shingle off Jamestown-reach, which stopped the navigation of vessels of a large draught; at low water, has recently been entirely removed by the same means. The depth of water has been increased from 4 to 17 feet at low water.—[London Globe.]

MINUTE AQUATIC WONDERS.

From some water containing aquatic plants, collected from a pond on Clapham Commons, I select a small twig, to which are attached a few delicate flakes, apparently of slime and jelly.—Some minute fibres standing erect here and there on the twig are also daily visible to the naked eye. This twig, with a drop or two of water, we will put between two thin plates of glass, and place under the field of view of a microscope, having lenses that magnify the image of an object two hundred times in linear dimensions. Upon looking through the instrument we find the fluid swarming with animals of various shapes and magnitudes. Some are darting through the water with great rapidity, while others are pursuing and devouring creatures more infinitesimal than themselves. Many are attached to the twig by long delicate threads, (the *Vorticella*.) Several have their bodies enclosed in a transparent tube, from one end of which the animal partly protrudes and then retracts (the *Floccularia*.) Whole numbers are covered with an elegant scale or case (the *Brachionus*.) The minutest kinds (the *Monads*.) many of which are so small that millions might be contained in a single drop of water, appear like mere animated globules, free and single, and of various colors, sporting about in every direction. Numerous species resemble pearls or opaline cups or vases, fringed around the margin with delicate fibres that are in constant oscillation (the *Vorticella*.) Some of these are attached by slender tendrils; others are mounted by a slender stem, to one common trunk, appearing like a bunch of hare-bells (the *Chesnut*); others are of a globular form, and grouped together in a definite pattern on a tabular or spherical membrane case for a certain period of their existence, and ultimately become detached and locomotive, (the *Comma* and *Volvox*), while many are permanently clustered together, and die if separated from the parent mass. No organs of progressive motion similar to those of beasts, birds, or fishes, are observable in these beings, yet they traverse the water with rapidity, without the aid of fins or limbs; and, though many species are destitute of eyes, yet all possess an accurate perception of the presence of other bodies, and pursue and capture their prey with unerring purpose.

For the Ladies.

FALSE ONE! I MEET THEE!

False one! I meet thee, but not as of yore.— As I once used to greet thee, I greet thee no more. Thy dark eye is beaming, thy red lip is proud; Of what art thou dreaming? The gaze of the crowd!
False one! I hear thee, thy hand on the lute! And of all those who hear thee, no one but is mute! Oh! well may they listen, and dwell on thy song; And every eye glisten, amid the proud throng.
False one, they know not how perfjured thou art; Thy well, for I show not the pang in my heart. They see thou art smiling, nor guess they thus thine wile.
When thou art beginning, how false is that smile!
False one! I meet thee, the proud by thy side;
False one! I greet thee in silence and pride! Our heart dream is over; our lips may not meet; Farewell to thee, false one! I go to forget!

ARAB WOMEN.

The fair sex is not altogether fair here, at least in my opinion. No one can deny that the Arab women have graceful figures and regular features, but they want those essential requisites of beauty—a soul and individual expression. They are all exactly alike, and their faces express but two passions—love and hate. All milder shades of feeling are wanted. How, indeed, would it be possible for them to acquire intellectual or bodily cultivation, when the greater part of their time is spent seated cross-legged grinding corn in a hand mill, or asleep? The married women are seldom seen out of their houses, and then only closely veiled. The young girls, on the contrary, are to be found every morning at sunrise outside the gate of the town, standing by the fountain, at which they assemble with stone jars on their shoulders, to fetch water for the day's consumption. This truly eastern scene calls to mind Rebecca at the well, drawing water for her father's flocks. If a stranger asks a daughter of the town to give him a draught of water (*alma*), the maiden reaches him a jar with a kindly nod; but, when he has sipped his thirst she pours away the remainder and draws fresh water, for the lips of the maiden have polluted it. The Arab women wear a white woollen garment confined under the breast by a girdle, and a white cloth twisted round the head. Their ornaments consists in rings in their ears and on their ankles, which are invariably naked. One cannot deny the efficiency of this graceful manner of calling attention to the beauty of their feet, which are truly exquisite.

These rings, among women of the lower class, are silver; among those of the higher class (and here, as in every other country, there are distinctions of class) they are of gold. A few days ago, my friend Ben Jusuf invited me to go with him to his house. I, of course, seized with joy this opportunity of seeing him in his domestic circle. He knocked at the door, which is invariably kept shut by day and by night in all Arab houses; a woman shortly appeared, and inquired who was there. At Ben Jusuf's answer the door was opened; but, when the woman saw me with her husband, she instantly concealed her face and I was about to run away. My friend, however, commanded her to remain. She was his wife, and besides her, he had two others, who were seated cross-legged in the court, one of them grinding corn in a hand-mill, the other combing the hair of a boy about five or six years old. I should have guessed them all three to be at least forty, but Ben Jusuf assured me that they were all under five-and-twenty. Their faces and figures were withered, and the bloom of youth quite gone, their eyes alone still retained fire.

At twenty the Arab women begin to fade, and at thirty they are old matrons. They all seemed to live in perfect harmony, and the manner of the women towards their lord and master was obliging even to servility. To judge by appearance, it must be easier to keep house with three wives than with one. Perhaps the rule, "*diem et impera*," holds good in love as well as in politics. I must, however, confess that I do not envy the Mahomedan gentlemen their frigid joys, nor do they seem to find much satisfaction in them themselves.—*The French in Algiers.*

Scraps.

A CONTROVERSY.

One of the most important and best conducted controversies of the day, is one which not long since occurred between the London *Punch* and the *Morning Post*. It was a great deal better than the sharp-shooting between two theologians. The *Post* said something which *Punch* did not like, and the next week *Punch* came out with a series of articles like the following:
"Military Regulation.—We understand that an order has been issued at the Horse Guards, positively prohibiting a certain morning paper in the barracks, for when the Journal alluded to has been admitted, it has been found quite impossible to prevent the soldiers from sleeping on their Posts." Again:
"Improvement in Railway.—Since the issuing of the order from the horse-guards, all the back numbers of the *Morning Post* have been purchased by a wealthy Railway Company, on the ground that the *Posts* make the *roads* sleepers."

"Rare Curiosity.—The only old gentleman, lately discovered reading the whole of one of the *Post's* leaders, has been procured at a high price for the Royal Museum."
A fire of small grape-shot of this sort soon silenced the heavy antagonist.
The same witty authority, in announcing the opening of parliament, illustrated the Queen's speech—the part relating to "friendly assurances from foreign powers" (Prince Albert) being represented by a cart load of chubby faced babies, drawn in a splendid air by a mob of meagre-looking Johnny Bulls.—[*Charleston Mercury.*]

A YANKEE'S ESTIMATE OF MARRIAGE.—They said marrying was fun—pretty fun, to be sure. When I was a single man, the world wagged along well enough. It was just like an omnibus. I was a passenger, paid my fare and hadn't nothing more to do with it than to sit down, and not care a button for anything. Sitting the omnibus got upset—well, I walks off, and leaves the man to pick up the pieces. But then I takes a wife, and bang! to me. Its all very well for a while; but afterwards its plaguy like owning an upset omnibus. What did I get by it? How much fun? Why, a living old woman, and then squallers. Mighty different from courting. Instead of "Yes, my duck!" No, my dear. "Is you please honey." and "When you like, lovey" like what it was in courting times, its rig ferrow—sour looks and cold potatoes, children and table-cloths badly off for soap, always darning and mending and nothing over darned or mended. If it wasnt that I am particularly sober, I'd be inclined to drink. My *missus* ain't my own—my money ain't my own—I belong to four people besides myself, the old woman and three children—I'm a partnership concern, and so many has got their finger in the till that I must bust up—I'll break, and sign over the stock in trade to you.

A RAZZOON.—A young lady, having asked a surgeon why woman was made from the rib of a man, in preference to any other bone,—he gave the following excellent answer:—"She was not taken from his head lest she should rule over him; nor from his feet, lest he should trample upon her; but she was taken from his side, that she might be his equal, from under his arm, that he might protect her; and from near his heart, that he might cherish and love her."
On the occasion of the 30th depot firing a few *de joi* in commemoration of our arms in China, a gentleman asked another in the street to inquire the object of the firing; "Don't you know," he replied, "that our old friend, Sir Hugh Gough, has compelled the Chinese to give us their Congou and Bohea teas, in exchange for our gunpowder? and the 30th depot are just discharging their samples."