

The white men in this country seem to have a perpetual struggle to keep the life in them. They rise in the morning and drive until the sun is about half an hour high, and then return and go to bed till ten o'clock, when they rise and take breakfast, after which they disperse until half an hour before sunset, when they take their second drive, and on their return take dinner, at which they sit for three, four, or five hours. Every drive is truly magnificent. At Madras you may see a thousand carriages out in the evening. These are the most delicious moments of a man's life-time to this country.

**NEWLY-INVENTED STEAM ENGINE.**—We witnessed, a day or two ago, the trial of a newly-invented engine, which, we should say is destined to supersede that class of engines now in general use. The inventor is Mr. John Dodd, of West Flamboro' who has devoted much time to the study of mechanics. Were we at full liberty, we should hardly know how to describe it, so as to convey a correct idea of its simplicity and completeness. It differs, however, entirely from the common steam engine, both in principle and construction. The model we saw is estimated at one horse power, yet it seemed to us to accomplish with perfect ease what the common engines of double or treble the power are often engaged in; such, for instance, as driving a circular saw. Attached to the shaft was one of these, fifteen inches in diameter, and a piece of hard-wood plank was sawed into strips with the most perfect ease. Afterwards a much thicker piece of plank was placed on the platform, and we could perceive no difference in the velocity of the saw. The entire engine may be put in a box about the size of a common candle box, and is perfect within itself, requiring no other fitting than being to a common steam boiler. We understand that the inventor intends to have his engine patented both here and in the United States and in England; to which latter place he will proceed with a model for exhibition at the World's Fair in May next.—*Dundas Warder.*

**IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCREW-PROPELLER.**—The *Morning Herald* says:—"Messrs. Maudesley have fitted a new kind of screw propeller, to the *Bosphorus* the ship destined to be the precursor of the regular steam communication between England and the Cape of Good Hope; and the ship having been completed, was taken yesterday on a trial trip down the Thames as far as the measured mile in Long Reach, several of the parties interested being on board. At the measured mile the mean speed of 9½ knots, or 10 2-3 statute miles, with an easiness of steering that was very remarkable, established most conclusively the triumph of the new principle. This improvement on the old propeller is termed Maudesley's patent self-acting feathering screw, which of itself assumes such a position that, when the ship is under canvas only the least possible amount of impediment is offered to its being drawn easily through the water; and when the ship is under steam-power, it again takes, spontaneously on the engine being put in motion, the right angle for propelling. In fact, to all intents and purposes, in form and reality, with this new screw, the vessel at the will of the navigator, is either the perfect sailing-ship or the auxiliary steam-ship, for the screw is so fitted, that when not required to propel the ship, it may be said to form a portion of the lines of the after portion of it. The important advantages of the new plan are almost self-evident, and when it is stated that it is constructed in competent parts, the improved facilities it affords for

for stowage or repairing will at once be seen and acknowledged, and we venture to predict, will be generally adopted in all services in preference to those at present in use."

A Discovery of another property of chloroform has just been announced by two French gentlemen who simultaneously, and without any consultation with each other, found that chloroform is an *antiseptic* of marvellous virtue, preventing animal decomposition after death, or promptly checking it if already commenced. Muscular flesh and all animal tissues when subjected to its action, become fixed for a long period of time in the precise form and condition in which they may happen to be at the moment of application, and natural colors, even to the slightest and most delicate shades, are preserved without the slightest change. The French Academy of Science, about to make some further investigations to verify this remarkable discovery.

**ASSAFETIDA.**—This article is obtained from a large umbelliferous plant growing in Persia. The root resembles a large parsnip externally, of a black color: on cutting it transversely, the asafetida exudes in form of a white thick juice, like cream, which, from exposure to the air, becomes yellowish and at last of dark brown color. It is very apt to run into putrefaction; and hence those who collect it carefully defend it from the sun. The fresh juice has an excessively strong smell, and grows weaker and weaker upon keeping; a single drachm of the fresh fluid smells more than a hundred pounds of the dry assafetida brought to us. The Persians are commonly obliged to hire ships on purpose for its carriage, as scarcely any one will receive it along with other commodities, its stench infecting every thing that comes near it.—*Sci. American.*

#### THE WORLD—ITS POPULATION.

The *Tribune* closes a long article on the subject of Population with the following reflections:—

The point which it would be wise both in Europeans and Americans to note, however, is that precisely the same causes are operating on our side of the globe, as on the other, to overburden the land with population and to inaugurate extreme poverty and starvation as the permanent condition of society, unless the true issue of the dilemma is sought out. It is especially to be understood that this whole trouble is not the mere return of an old event, such as mankind is accustomed to, but that it is the occurrence of a new and untried contingency. During the early ages of human society causes were in existence of various kinds, among which the constant prevalence of wars was a prominent one to keep down the increase of population.

Peace, comparative prosperity, in a commercial and agricultural point of view, such as results from the enlargement of empire and the habits of civilization, and prior to the period of the general refinement and development of the race, furnish the conditions of a rapid multiplication of the human family. It is precisely in that condition that the world generally, now finds itself for the first time. Ireland during a period of 56 years, from 1785 to 1841, increased in population from 2,845,932, to 8,466,000. France has increased since 1831 from 27,000,000 to 35,000,000. The United States has increased from 1790 to 1850 from 3,729,328 to 27,000,000 or more. The average of these ratios is equal to the ratio of increase in China during the past 150 years.