

Mr. Alfred Tennyson has at length finally left Faringford House, in the Isle of Wight, and taken up his abode at his new residence near Petersfield, in Hampshire, one of the most beautiful of the southern counties of England.

A fisherman of France lately caught a fish, within which was found a breast-pin ornamented with thirty precious stones, diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires, the whole valued by Paris jewellers at \$300,000.

A deputation of electors has just returned from London with the acceptance by Louis Blanc of Paris, in place of Ledru Rollin. The latter, however, insists on maintaining his candidature, and has published an electoral address, which is ridiculed by all the Paris journals.

Mr. Ruskin lately gave four of his books to a new library in England—"Queen of the Air," "Ethics of the Dust," "Crown of Olive," and "Unto this Last," with the remark that they are his only works which he wishes to be read in their present form.

Kertch, on the Sea of Azof, has lately been made a first-class fortress by Russia, and the works are nearly equal to those of Sebastopol. One of the remarkable features of the fortress is the largest cistern in the world. It will hold a water supply for ten thousand men for a whole year.

A despatch from Paris, Nov. 13, says—The garrison of this city will be immediately augmented by two regiments of cavalry. Last night another monster demonstration in favour of Henri Rochefort was held in the streets. People not disturbed by the police.

The burning of the Sugar crop in Cuba is proposed by Céspedes, in order to keep the Spaniards from using it. It will cost the United States, according to Cuban estimates, from fifty to sixty million dollars in customs revenue and income from commercial transactions.

As illustrating the extent and importance of the trade between San Francisco and Australia, it is stated that there are twenty-six ships on their way from the latter to the former, and that in fifteen years the trade has amounted to twenty-two millions of dollars and employed one thousand and ninety-five vessels of five hundred and fifteen thousand tons burthen.

Monsieur Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, has issued a pastoral letter, expressing his approval of the proceedings of the Fulda Conference, but declaring in advance that he will abide by the decision of the Ecumenical Council, whatever that may be. It is reported that the pastoral of the Archbishop of Paris, issued Nov. 7, opposing the adoption of the dogma of Papal infallibility without discussion, was inspired by the Emperor.

An immense bed of petrified fossil shells has been found near Saratov in South-eastern Russia. The interior of these shells contains beautiful crystals of sulphate of copper, from which it is proposed to extract the metal. In a scientific point of view, this discovery is valuable, as many of the specimens are in such a good state of preservation that the shape of the shell-fish, their former occupants, can be easily traced.

The Bombay "Athenaeum" attests that the mind of India is now agitated, not on the increased commerce, vast as that is, but on the question of the Christian religion. India is much in the condition of Rome previously to the baptism of the Emperor Constantine. Idolatry, here as there, now as then, is falling into disgrace. Men are becoming wiser. Truth, in its clearness and power, is gradually entering their minds, and changing their habits and lives.

London, Nov. 12. A despatch says—Advices from Alexandria state that the great bed of rock in the Suez Canal at India, 75 miles south of Port Said, which has hitherto been a hindrance to dredging, will be at once blasted out. This rock is eighty feet thick. The convoy at the opening ceremonies on the 17th, will consist of eighty ships. Notwithstanding this favourable news, the underwriters of this city mostly decline to insure.

Mr. Gladstone has made nine baronets. The first seven have been selected on purpose from among the great industrialists of the north, the traders and captains of labour, who of late years have been somewhat overlooked. The true principle in the distribution of such titles is to link all who rise to real power into the State system, and on that principle these nominations are all sound. Every one selected is a personage in his own way, and four at least have done the public great service.—*London Spectator*.

A young Swede, totally ignorant of the nature of his game, killed four bears near Lake City, Minn. Finding indications of the passage of some animal into a hole in the rocks, he laid down his old shot gun, and, procuring a long pole, began coaxing them out. Snarling and growling followed his proceedings, and he stepped back and levelled his gun in time to give the big black head that was presented at the hole a quieting charge in the eyes. He reloaded, dragged out the incumbent of the hole, and performed the operation on the next one, and so on, until he had bagged the four.

The café in St. Mark's Square, Venice, where Eugénie took her curaçon, is never shut up. There are no locks to the doors, no shutters to the windows. Some of them have been open since the days of the first Napoleon, having been closed only twice in all that time—once in 1848, and a second time in 1850, when they were cleared out by the police. These cafés are the centre of Venetian life. They are the drawing rooms of the gentry and aristocracy, the parlours and club rooms of the people. People receive visits and transact business at the cafés as if they were at home. Ladies and school girls go there. Whole families sit down to coffee, and turn the piazza into a drawing-room, the band playing there at certain hours, and all the *beau monde* of Venice passing through.

The *France du Nord* publishes a statement which leads to the opinion that nine persons in all have been the victims of Traupmann, the Pantin murderer. It says—The painful impression caused by the disappearance of a young man of Boulogne, named Dubourquoy, employed at M. Pinart's foundry, at Marquise, cannot have been forgotten. We now learn that he fell a victim to the infamous Traupmann, and was drowned by that monster in human form. It will be remembered that the murderer of the Kincks boasted on one occasion that he had thrown a man into the water, and on the 2nd of July last the body of an individual, afterwards identified as that of Dubourquoy, who had disappeared when returning from Lille, and from whom a sum of 2000f. had been taken, had been discovered. A small portmanteau, which had belonged to the victim has been found in the possession of Traupmann.

CHEAP OCEAN POSTAGE.—There seems to be a probability that the rate of postage between Great Britain and the United States will soon be reduced. A telegram from Washington says:

From late intelligence received through Mr. Thornton, the British Minister, it appears that Her Majesty's Government is prepared to reduce the single rate of postage between the United States and the United Kingdom to three pence. It will be remembered that Postmaster-General Cresswell submitted a proposition to the British Post Office Department to reduce the letter rate of postage from 12 to 6 cents to take effect on and after the first of January, 1870; of which 2 cents would be sea postage of each country. There is little doubt, therefore, of the early adoption of this measure of postal reform, so earnestly desired by the people of the two countries.

WOLVES IN FRANCE.—In the good hunting country of the Ardennes wolves have already been seen. A cold winter and fine sport are expected. Last winter, in the month of November, a strange animal gave much trouble to the wolf hunters. It spread terror in the neighbourhood of Vouziers. It was larger, stronger, and more intrepid than a wolf, with an enormous head and a square jaw. It was, in short, a cross between a large male wolf and a powerful dog-bitch. It stood fiercely at bay, and disabled seven or eight dogs before a rifle ball laid it low. The Pyrenees will also be full of wolves. The bathing stations, when buried under snow, present a curious aspect. The inhabitants have abandoned them, the houses are shut up, the wolves roam through the streets with mournful howls. This spectacle is to be witnessed even at Bagnères de Luchon. There are frequent fierce struggles between the wolves and the formidable Pyrenean dogs, whose coat and power remind one of the finest Newfoundlands. The necks of those which guard the country houses are protected by those iron collars, bristling with sharp spikes, which are specially manufactured in the Pyrenees, and so carefully and well-finished that some of them are almost works of art.—*Le Sport*.

ANGLING IN THE SCOTCH RIVERS.—The angling season of 1869 on the Scotch rivers has, on the whole, been most unsatisfactory. Fewer salmon have been taken this year by rod and line than for many years past. The failure of capture cannot be attributed to the scarcity of fish, as the Scotch waters were perhaps never so well stocked with salmon as during the present year. Either too much or too little water was the chief cause of the non-success in angling. The heavy floods in the early part of the year were unfavourable for the spring fishing, the water remaining discoloured and unfit for the fly for several weeks. The autumn fishing was poor in consequence of the low state of the water during the greater part of the summer, which prevented the fish from ascending to the upper waters. On some rivers little or no sport was had until within a week or two of the close season. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that the spawning prospects for the coming season are promising. In several rivers the numbers of breeding fish are reported to be very considerable. That the salmon fisheries of England, Ireland, and Scotland have much improved since the recent Salmon Acts came into operation is now clearly demonstrated. This improvement is perhaps more apparent in England, where, since the appointment of salmon fishing inspectors, the rivers have doubled, and in some instances quadrupled their former produce.

PHYSICAL CHANGES.—The changes taking place on the surface of our earth with which the hand of man has nothing to do, are very remarkable. Jersey and Guernsey are slowly sinking. People anxious to see them need not as yet be in any hurry; but their places will, perhaps, some day, be marked by light-ships anchored to what is now fertile soil. Meanwhile, new islands in another hemisphere, and Chili and Sweden are being slowly elevated, to attain a height no man can guess. To these changes, as we said, man contributes nothing; but he has a hand in effecting changes which, it is calculated or speculated, may alter the features of an entire continent. We have read something lately of the natural desire of the Government to preserve the forests of India. Deprived of them India would soon become a desert like Sahara, but should Sahara become covered with forests, what would be the consequences to Europe? In truth, the desert is being slowly encroached upon. Wells are being sunk, and around each well the desert begins to blossom.

UNITED STATES.

The Pacific railroad has brought down the price of passage by steamer, from New York to San Francisco. The cabin passage is \$100, and the steerage \$50.

Rumours from Washington continue to report the intention of the President to urge upon Congress an early resumption of specie payments.

It is stated that the Washington Cabinet has taken the initiative towards securing a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada.

The largest market house in the world is to be erected at the foot of 34th Street, North River, New York, by a company which is already organized.

In the vicinity of the Iron Mountain Railroad, in south east Missouri, there are abundant deposits of porcelain clay or kaolin—of the finest quality, yet it is useless, because nobody can be found to undertake the manufacture of ware who understands the proper process of bleaching to a perfect whiteness.

An old farmer in Lewiston, Me., was arrested a few days ago, for putting stones in his hay, to make it weigh heavy. He was caught pulling out the stones after the hay had been weighed, and on investigation it was found that he had 115 pounds of them stuck into the load.

A young lady of St. Louis having suddenly disappeared, a reward of \$100 dollars was offered by her father for information of her whereabouts, whereupon a young man called for the \$100, stating that she was keeping house for him, he having eloped with and married her.

CHATELARD VIADUCT OF THE LAUSANNE AND FRIBURG RAILROAD.

The line of railroad that unites the two cities of Lausanne and Friburg is one of the most picturesque in Switzerland. One portion of the line on leaving Lausanne rises rapidly on the Vaudois slope of Lake Lemane, the waters of which wash the base of gigantic rocks of Savoy and Valois. A sharp curved tunnel suddenly hides this magnificent panorama, per-

haps the most unique in Europe, and the traveller is speedily transported into the midst of a display of vigorous nature, hills covered with trees, and fertile valleys.

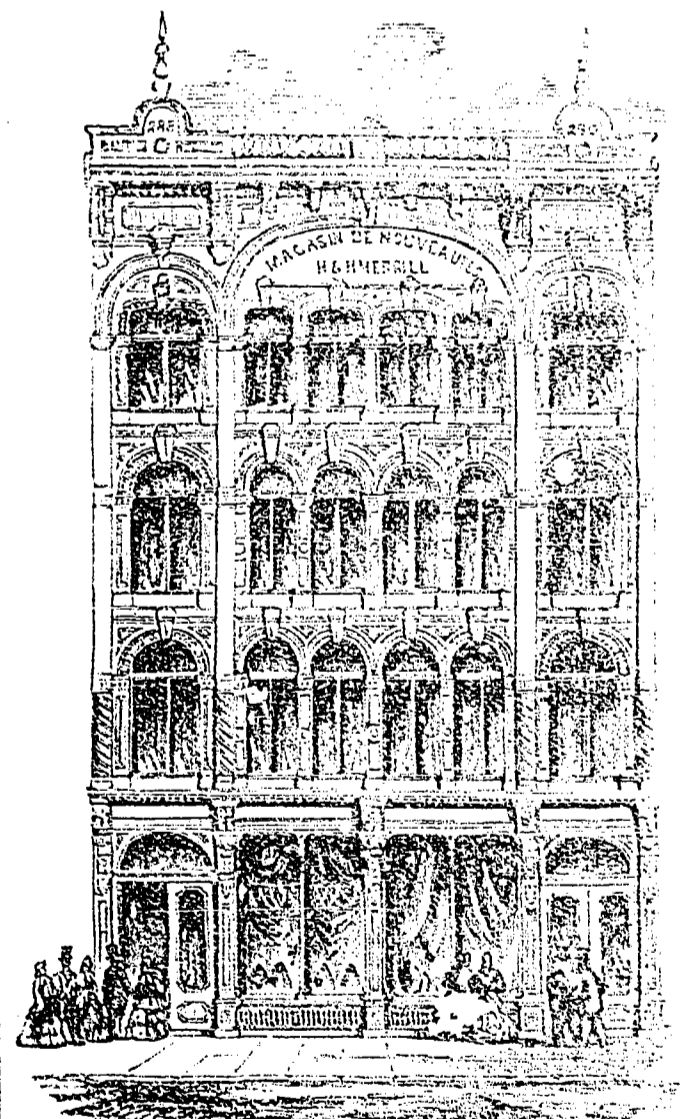
The ancient city of Friburg is one of the most wild and picturesque in Switzerland. It stands partly in a small plain, partly on bold acclivities, on a ridge of rugged rocks, half encircled by the river Sarine, and is so entirely concealed by the surrounding hills that the traveller scarcely catches the smallest glimpse, until he bursts upon a view of the city from the overhanging eminence. There are two fine suspension bridges across the river, one of which hangs 284 feet above the bed. A short distance out of the town is the celebrated railway, Grandviaduct, constructed of iron. Indeed the difficulties to be overcome on that line were very great, and in order to effect a passage over the abrupt ravines, recourse had to be made to works of art, the dimensions of which fill the traveller with feelings of wonder; such are the viaduct of Pandese, constructed of masonry, and the sheet iron viaduct of Chate-lard, an illustration of which is given herewith, constructed by Ladet and Alphaise of Paris.—*Scientific American*.



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