

done this season. The excitement abroad, however, is now fairly past its height, and at home it is kept up solely by a few selfish interested speculators, who eagerly propagate and spread exaggerated reports, with the view of keeping up the markets for a few weeks.

From all quarters we have favourable accounts of the growing crops. The weather is magnificent, and vegetation most prosperous. It could not be more to our wish, as a facetious Yorkshireman observes, if we had the sun in one hand and a watering pan in the other. A better filling season we have not had for many years. The grain is mostly of average length of straw, and the ears are uncommonly well developed. Even on cold late soils the crops are above an average.

From abroad, the news are equally cheering. Throughout France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, and the west of Europe, the weather has been very fine, and the progress of the crops auspicious. The harvest is terminated in some of the earlier districts, and the returns are spoken of as very encouraging. Prices are falling everywhere. In the east of Europe the harvest will be a full average. Last year, Russia had a surplus of not less than 6½ million quarters of wheat (9 million chetwerts.) Of this, only about a fourth has been required as yet for exportation to foreign countries. This year she will have a still larger quantity. The crops throughout America never promised better. The rains which fell in the beginning of June over a vast portion of that country have given the Indian corn a firm footing, preparatory to the hot suns of July and August. Doubtless, in some parts, the grain is light, but it is always so. Over a country 20 degrees of latitude and 25 degrees of longitude, perfect uniformity is not to be expected. But, as a whole, taking into consideration the unusual extent of surface sown, there is every prospect of a most abundant harvest. The prospect that Indian meal will be introduced as a common article of food into Europe has induced farmers to plant all the land they could spare for that purpose. Four or five times the usual quantity has been put in.

The period is now past at which the potato disease shewed itself unequivocally last year. There have, as yet, been but a few partial instances of failure; indeed, it is doubtful whether any of them can be authenticated. On the whole, they never looked healthier.

The price of grain on Monday experienced another decline in Mark Lane of from five to eight shillings a quarter in home grown, and from six to eight shillings in foreign wheat. The serious reduction in the latter was occasioned by the immense arrivals from foreign countries, which were greater than at any period of the apprehension of scarcity. The magnificent weather, the abundance of the harvest on the Continent, and the equally fine prospect of our own, were not without their influence in bringing about this seasonable reduction. It is expected the harvest will become general within the next ten days or a fortnight.—*Border Watch*, 30th July.

SEAL CATCHING ON THE ST. LAWRENCE.

The National Intelligencer has recently been giving a series of very pleasant and instructive letters from a correspondent in Canada, describing his adventures on the Saguenay river, where he has had fine luck with salmon, porpoises, moschetoes, &c. From one of these letters we extract the following account of Saguenay seal-catching:

TADOUSAC, JUNE 30, 1847.

Before breakfast this morning I had the pleasure of taking fifteen common trout, and the remainder of the day I devoted to seal-hunting. This animal is found in great abundance in the St. Lawrence, and by the Indians and a few white people is extensively hunted. There are several varieties found in these waters, and the usual market price for the oil and skin is five dollars. They vary in size from four to eight feet, and are said to be good eating. Many people make them a principal article of food; and while the Indians use their skins for many purposes, they also light their cabins with the oil. In sailing the river they meet you at every turn, and when I first saw one I thought I was looking on a drowning man, for they only raise their heads out of water, and thus sustain themselves with their feet, fins, pads, flippers, or whatever you may call them. They live upon fish, and in many of their habits closely resemble the otter. Their paws have five claws, joined together with a thick skin; they somewhat resemble the dog, and have a bearded snout like a cat, large bright eyes, and long sharp teeth. They are a noisy animal, and when a number of them are sunning themselves upon the sand, the screams they utter are doleful in the extreme, somewhat resembling the cry of children.

That my letter about seals may be worth sealing, I will give you the history of an incident which illustrates the sagacity of an Indian in killing his game. A Mik-mak hunter, with his family, had reached the shore of the St. Lawrence hungry and short of ammunition. On a large sand bank which lay before him, at the time when the tide was low, he discovered a large number of seals. He waited for the tide to flow and again to ebb, and as soon as the sand appeared above the water, he hastened to the dry point in his canoe, carrying only a hatchet as a weapon. On this spot he immediately dug a large hole, into which he crept, and covered himself with a blanket. He then commenced a cry in imitation of the seal, and in a short time had collected about him a very large number of those animals. He waited patiently for the tide to retire so far that the animals would have to travel at least a mile by land before reaching the water; and, when

the wished for moment arrived, he suddenly fell upon the affrighted multitude, and with his tomahawk succeeded in slaughtering upwards of one hundred. To many this may appear to be an improbable story, but when it is remembered that this amphibious animal is an exceedingly slow land traveller it will be readily believed. The manner in which our hunter managed to save his game, was to tie them together with bark, and when the tide rose tow them to the main shore.

Since I have brought you upon the waters of the St. Lawrence, I will not permit you to go ashore until I have given you an account of another inhabitant of the deep which is found in very great abundance, not only in this river, but also in the Saguenay. I allude to the white porpoise. The shape of this creature is similar to that of the whale, though of a pure white colour, and usually only about fifteen feet in length. They are exceedingly fat, and yield an oil of the best quality, while the skin is capable of being turned into durable leather. They are extensively used as an article of food; the fins and tail when pickled are considered a delicacy; and their value is about twenty-five dollars apiece. They are far from being a shy fish; and when sailing about your vessel in large numbers, as is often the case, they present a beautiful and unique appearance. For taking this fish the people of this region have two methods. The first is to use a boat with a white bottom, behind which the fishermen tow a small wooden porpoise, which is painted a dark slate colour, in imitation of the young of the species.

With these lures the porpoise is often brought into the immediate vicinity of the harpoon, which is invariably thrown with fatal precision. In this manner an expert man will often take three or four fine prizes in a day. Another mode of taking these creatures is by fencing them in. It appears that it is customary for this fish to wander over the sand bars at high water for the purpose of feeding. Profiting by this knowledge, the fishermen enclose one of the sandy reefs with poles set about three feet apart, and sometimes covering a square mile. They leave an appropriate opening for the porpoise, who are sure to enter at high water, and, owing to their timidity, they are kept confined by the slender barrier until the tide ebbs, when they are destroyed in great numbers with very little trouble. It is reported that a party of fishermen, some ninety miles above the Saguenay, once took one hundred and forty porpoises at one tide; and it is also asserted that in dividing the spoil the fishermen had a very bitter quarrel, since which time not a single porpoise has ever been taken on the shoal in question.

DON'T SUSPECT TOO QUICK.—The Philadelphia papers give an account of a most brutal chastisement inflicted by a pious and refined lady of that city, upon a little coloured girl whom she suspected of stealing money from her. After whipping the girl herself, having her husband do the same, and letting a young man frighten her with a rope and threats of hanging, the lady found the money all safely pinned in a dress, just where she had placed it herself, and then forgotten it.

THE FATHER MATHEW MEN.—There is one fact in relation to the immigrants that have arrived on our shores the present season, which is of rather an alarming nature to the friends of temperance and good order. The Boston Traveler states on the authority of a person who was obliged to be much among foreign immigrants for the last five or six years, that whereas in former years nearly every one of them were Father Mathew men, he has been unable to find a half-dozen the present season of the thousands with whom he has come in contact, who had taken the temperance pledge. (We think the same remark holds good in Canada. The Irish Landlords are n t likely to send off their best population.—*ED. MAG*)

BOSTON, AUG. 6.—SHOES—PASTEBOARD SHOES.—We have just examined a specimen of cheaterly in shoes, of which kind we had heard, but never had supposed it a fact. The shoes are of the coarse brogan kind, such as sell at retail for \$1 and \$1.26.—What is usually the sole, is, in this case, only very thin, poor leather—it may be sheepskin. The welt is very thick, coarse leather, to which both upper leather and sole are sewed or pegged; the deficiency inside is supplied by thick yellow straw pasteboard. The shoes thus appear to have very good stout soles. A very little wear carries away the thin skin of a sole, and the yellow pasteboard presents itself, and the cheaterly is thus exposed too late for the purchaser. We have seen all this—but we do not put it under our head of new inventions.—*Artisan*

HOME INDUSTRY.—The Nantucket Inquirer says that several boats are now engaged at Quiddin and Siasconset, in taking sharks. Four men took in two days last week, fifty of these fish, which made sixty gallons of oil, worth 45 cents a gallon. The carcasses sell for nine dollars a ton for manure.

KIDNAPPING A COLOURED MAN.—A case of painful interest has lately occurred at Camden, opposite Philadelphia. A respectable coloured man who had resided there for some time, was carried off by the minions of some slaveholder. We understand that the slave was arrested by the son of his master and two strong men employed for the purpose; and a severe struggle ensued in making the arrest, and that both men bore marks of the negro's strong right arm and unyielding will. That he was at length overpowered, gagged and tied down in the bottom of the waggon, that he could not excite public sympathy by his appearance or his outcries; and that he was thus carried out of the county and the State without a trial or a hearing. If these things are as alleged, it was certainly a great outrage, and one that may well excite the indignation of the people of the State.—*Phil. Ledger*.

INDIA RUBBER BUSINESS.—The consumption of India Rubber has prodigiously increased, as shown by the fact, that in 1828, the quantity of that article exported from Brazil did not exceed 20,000 pounds, whilst that of 1846 amounted to 800,000 pounds, besides 416,000 pairs of shoes.