

which well agrees with all accounts of her previous life. She weighs 52lbs.; measures 2 feet 2 inches round the chest, and is 3 feet 2 inches high; or, as she will not stand upright to be measured, probably her height is nearly 3 feet 6 inches.

#### GERMAN WOMEN.

In my way from Spa, I saw a woman thrashing in a barn with a man; she beat her time well, and laid it on as hard as her partner. This, I think, nearly makes up the list of female accomplishments. Brickmaking, stone-breaking, wheat-sowing, reaping, mowing, thrashing, and carrying heavy loads, are pretty little additions to the burdens that nature lays upon the sex. I have not yet seen any female postilions, or top-sawyers, but I live in hopes. In the evening band at the Brunnen, at Aix, a woman plays the violoncello.—*Journal of a Patient under the Hot Water Cure.*

#### PENNY POSTAGE.

The usual Post office returns have just been issued; they show results which must be highly gratifying to the friends of penny postage. The total number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom in the year 1844 was 242 millions, which is an increase of nearly 22 millions on the previous year. (The number before the reduction of the rate, it may be necessary to remind our readers, was 75 millions.) But the most remarkable fact is the great increase in the London district, or old twopenny post, the letters of which have more than doubled since the penny rate was established.

**THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.**—During the week we have had a succession of fine growing days, with genial showers and a summer atmosphere. As a consequence, the progress of vegetation of all kinds has been most rapid, and the accounts relating to all farming matters are very favourable. Any continuance of the present auspicious weather will go far to ensure another prosperous agricultural year; for, notwithstanding some local injury from the wire-worm, the grain crops present a most promising appearance, and indeed all field operations have been most successful. In the gardens, most of the early vegetables are now abundant; new potatoes, grown in the open air, have been taken up of good size, and peas have been more than a week in blossom. The promise of fruit of all kinds, except perhaps pears, is excellent.—*Carlisle Patriot.*

**THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS**—June came in with the promise of a succession of bright and more genial days than had marked the progress of the preceding month, with its chilling north-east winds and gloomy rain-charged clouds. Hitherto the promise has been kept; and although rain has occasionally fallen, we have had some warm sunny days, which have produced the most beneficial effects upon every description of vegetation. Much anxiety has been felt for the safety of the wheat crop, especially after a winter of unusual severity and the prevalence of severe spring frosts. On some of the higher descriptions of soil, the wire-worm has made more extensive ravages than has been the case for many years. Indeed, several fields have been so much injured, and the crop rendered so hopeless, as to require ploughing up. On the strong soils, however, the plants look very well, although the growth is not so forward as is generally the case. The barley and bean lands promise, at present, a good produce. The frequent showers have had a beneficial effect upon the pastures and meadows. With regard to the latter, the bottom grass is rank and luxuriant, fully warranting the hope for a crop far superior to that of last year, which, indeed, was lamentably deficient. What is now to be desired is the prevalence of sunlight days and genial nights.—*Doncaster Gazette.*

**THE CROPS.**—We have had a continuation of splendid summer weather since the commencement of

June, sunshine and occasional thunder showers. Notwithstanding the ungenial weather of May, the corn crops, as well as grass, had considerably advanced, and the start they have since made is almost miraculous. The meadows have a thick bottom-cover that cannot fail to prove a heavy crop, should sunshine still prevail. The wheat-crops, too, in the face of much nonsensical foreboding about them in certain quarters, have a vigorous, healthy appearance, and fully cover the ground: at any rate, this is the case in this district of the East Riding; and, from all we hear, we believe it to be so throughout Yorkshire, as well as in that portion of Lincolnshire bordering upon us. The same may be said of the barley and oat crops, except in poor soils. Of course it is too soon as yet, to speculate as to the amount of the average produce. We never remember to have seen bean crops look better.—*Hull Packet.*

**ADVERTISING.**—There is but one way of obtaining business—publicity; one way of obtaining publicity—advertisement: the newspaper is the flying-wheel by which motive power of commercial enterprise is sustained, and money the steam by which the advertising is kept going.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

**PRESENT TO HER MAJESTY.**—On Thursday afternoon the General Steam Navigation Company's vessel the Princess Royal arrived at Blackwall from Hamburg, bringing four magnificent horses, three black and one grey, with Cossack attendants, who had come by that route from St. Petersburg, whence the horses had been sent by his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, as a present to her Majesty.

**VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.**—Timber has been discovered in Van Dieman's Land fit for flour-casks, equal to that of American oak in every respect; and more recently a description of timber has been found and made into oil-casks immediately it is taken out of the forest, without the slightest danger of shrinking or the loss of the oil in the warmest climates.—*Local Paper.*

**STEEL PENS.**—When these have been punched out of the softened sheet of steel by the appropriate tool, fashioned into the desired form, and hardened by ignition in an oven, and sudden quenching with cold water, they are best tempered by being heated to the requisite spring elasticity in an oil bath. The heat of this bath is usually judged of by the appearance to the eye; but this point should be correctly determined by a thermometer, according to a scale; and then the pens would acquire a definite degree of flexibility or stiffness adapted to the wants or wishes of the consumers. They are at present tempered too often at random.—*Ure's Arts, Manufactures, &c.*

**TEA.**—A curious return has been issued by order of the House of Commons (having been prepared on the motion of Mr. Hastie), showing the quantities of tea retained for home consumption in the United Kingdom in each year from 1740 to the termination of the East India Company's sales, and thence to the present time. In 1740, 1,493,625lbs. of tea were retained for home consumption. Two years afterwards the quantity fell to 473,868lbs.; and, in 1767, only 215,019lbs. were retained. Next year the amount increased to 3,150,517lbs.; in 1769, it was 9,114,845lbs.; in 1795, 21,342,855lbs.; and in 1836, 49,142,236lbs.—the largest amount in any one year retained for home consumption in the United Kingdom. In 1843, the quantity was 40,293,393lbs.; and last year, 51,363,770lbs. The return in question also specifies the quantity of the various kinds of tea, with the average sale prices. The nett receipt of duty on tea (Customs and Excise) last year was 4,524,193l.

**TO HAVE GREEN PEAS IN WINTER.**—Take the peas when they are plenty, shell them, wash and scald in hot water, then drain, put them into bottles, and pour on strong brine enough to cover; on this pour a thin layer of good salad oil, cork tight, then dip the corks into melted pitch. The bottles should be quite full, and kept upright.

**Muffins.**—Take 3 pints of flour, 1 pint lukewarm water, 1 teacup full of baker's yeast, 1 great spoonful of sugar, 1 teaspoonful of salt. Make up in the morning for tea, or at night for breakfast.