

STATISTICS.

From the London Family Herald.

The 20,000 miles of railway in the United Kingdom now carry every year over 700,000,000 of passengers, and the passenger receipts annually amount to about £70,000,000.

Colorado maintains first rank as the largest producer of the precious metals in the United States, the value of its production of gold and silver having been over £5,000,000 during last year.

The total amount of trade in the world, including imports and exports, amounts to about £1,800,000,000, 80 per cent. of the whole being in the hands of eight countries—the United Kingdom, Germany, France, United States, Belgium, Holland, Austria and Italy.

The Brazilian diamond-mines are said to yield about £300,000 worth of diamonds annually, and those of India, Borneo, and Australia £200,000 worth; but these sums are insignificant now in comparison with the South African yield of about \$4,000,000 worth yearly.

The pearl-fisheries on the coasts of Central America furnish about £100,000 worth of pearls, and employ about 1,000 divers. Our imports of pearls average in value about £100,000; France receives about the same.

Tea, and at a slower rate tobacco, have been annually consumed in the United Kingdom in greater quantities for the last six years. At present about 1 lb. 7 oz. of tobacco and 4 lb. 13 oz. of tea are credited to every man, woman, and child.

The returns of the Postal Savings Bank of Canada, at the close of the last financial year show a sum of nearly £4,000,000 standing to the credit of over 90,000 depositors. The amount of deposits in the savings branches of the chartered banks during the last financial year increased by £1,200,000 as compared with the returns of the previous year.

Every company registered at Somerset House is required to forward annually a return of its shareholders, to be filed with the original entry of articles of association for reference by any person desiring to see it. The number of these returns received during 1876 was upwards of 21,000; and the fees received from the companies for registration and from the public for searching the files reached the large sum of £33,000.

Of 1,000 persons 990 would doubtless say that a baby in the cradle would be likely to live longer than a man of 65, but statistics prove indisputably that 500 in every 1,000 infants die before the age of 5 years is recorded, while out of 1,000 healthy men aged 65 more than 500 of them will be alive in 5—aye, in 10 years, or even a longer time. So it will be seen that a man of 65 may be considered younger than an infant so far as his chances of future life are concerned.

TEA AND SUGAR.—The consumption of tea per head in these islands rose between 1855 and 1865 from 2·3 to 3·3 lb., or 43 per cent.; between 1865 and 1875 from 3·3 to 4·4 lb., or 33 per cent.; and between 1875 and 1885 from 4·4 to 5 lb., or 13½ per cent. In sugar the progression was in the first period from 30·6 to 39·8 lbs. per head, or 30 per cent.; in the second period from 39·8 to 62·7 lb., or 58 per cent.; and in the third period from 62·7 to 74·3 lb., or 19 per cent. only. In the last 10 years in both cases the rate of increase was less than in the 20 years before.

MOROCCO.—Morocco has a population of from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 on a surface which could support in comfort from 20,000,000 to 30,000,000. The Kabyles number about 3,000,000. The 2,000,000 of Arabs on whom the Sultan and the Empire chiefly depend occupy the great plains—Fez with 80,000, Morocco with 50,000, and Mequinez with 15,000—the great plains, and the lower valleys of the streams. The Jews, who serve as intermediaries between the Kabyles, the Arabs, and the scattered Christians, and who also conduct the commerce of the ports with Europe number 300,000.

SPIRIT-SHOPS IN FRANCE.—On the eve of the Franco-German war the number of retailers of spirits in France, exclusive of Alsace-Lorraine, was about 366,000. It remained about the same until the year 1880. Then was passed a law making the commerce of wines and liquors absolutely free. The effect of this has been to bring the number up to 425,000. For the whole population, including women and children, this would be about one spirit-shop for every 94 inhabitants. That means probably one for every 35 men. As for Paris, it now contains 30,000, which is double the number existing seven years ago.

THE CHICAGO PACKING-HOUSES.—During the past twelve months the packing-houses of Chicago killed and packed 4,426,000 hogs and 1,008,000 beeves, their product going to all parts of the world. This represents a very large proportion of the whole number of these animals in the States which are fatted to kill, for at the opening of this year it was estimated there were in the country of hogs of all ages 44,000,000, and of cattle, exclusive of milch cows, 33,000,000. The products of the packing reach enormous figures, being no less than 1,055,000,000 lb. of pork and lard for the year, and 573,000,000 lb. of dressed beef. A very large proportion of the pork and lard, 810,000,000 lb., were exported beyond the States, and of this 90 per cent. went to the United Kingdom. The packers say their hog trade does not increase, but their beef trade grows at an extraordinary rate.

VARIETIES.

From the London Family Herald.

It is customary in Sweden to hang the door-key up outside the house to show that the family is not at home.

Pheasants first came into England during the Roman period; they did not make their appearance in Scotland much before the seventeenth century, or in Ireland before the fifteenth.

Wood cut down in winter is considered more durable than that felled in summer. In many countries the forest-laws enjoin the felling of trees only between November 15 and February 15.

The mace of the Speaker of the House of Commons is a notable historical relic, for it was the mace which was carried before King Charles I. as he walked to the scaffold.

In Turkey the disappearance of the sun at night is accounted for by the periodical retirement of that pious luminary for prayer and religious reflection.

The first auction ever held in Great Britain was in 1700, when Elishur, a governor of Fort George, in the East Indies, publicly sold the goods he had brought home to the highest bidder.

It will perhaps be news to the travelling public that the penalty for bringing or importing a pirated edition of a copyright book into the United Kingdom is a fine of ten pounds, which, it seems, must be inflicted for every such offence, plus double the value of every copy imported.

Perhaps one of the most primitive of independent kingdoms is the little island of Johanna, in the Comoro group. The Sultan boards any ship that may call there, and endeavors to secure the washing for his wives, while the Prime Minister peddles coconuts and bananas.

The rapidity with which fungi grow is sometimes very remarkable. The *Boristo gigantea* in a single night has increased from the size of a pea to a melon. The force with which they expand has been shown by their raising pavements under which they had been developed.

The Persians are of opinion that a lion will never hurt a person of their religion, which is somewhat different from that of the Turks. They firmly believe that their lions would devour a Turk, but that they themselves are perfectly safe if they take care to let the lion know by some exclamation of what religion they are.

The river Zambesi marks the limit of South Africa as a colony in which children of European extraction can be reared, because the tableland of Bechuanaland and Matabeleland within the tropics falls down towards the Zambesi; it is only in the high lands within the tropics of South Africa that white children can be successfully brought up.

About four hundred thousand pounds of rough coral are brought annually to Italy, and the shaping and working of this into the varied forms it assumes for commercial purposes give employment to hundreds in the chief cities. The value of the coral shipped from Europe used to reach about six hundred thousand pounds annually. But, with the change of fashion, this has declined considerably.

A pleasant beverage called "chica de mirtillo" is obtained in Chili from a species of myrtle-berries, *Mauria simplicifolia*. These are about the size of a large pea, of a deep red color, and of a peculiarly sweet and delicious aromatic flavor. They are prepared by crushing them in water, and allowing them to ferment for a few days. The black cluster-berries of the molle-tree are also gathered for this purpose by the Indians. They have a combined flavor of juniper and pepper.

The liqueur called "maraschino," which is chiefly manufactured in the Italian States and Dalmatia, is prepared from a variety of cherry. The fruit and seed are crushed together, one part of honey to the hundred added, and the whole mass subjected to fermentation; during this process it is distilled. The kernel of the cherry contains the elements of hydrocyanic acid, and is accordingly much used for communicating its peculiar flavor to brandy and liqueurs.

"MOVE ON!" OUT WEST.—As is well known, the American Indians have been removed farther and farther from their homes to make room for the whites. Once, relates the author of *The Making of New England*, when an agent of the government was sent to a certain tribe to notify them that they must again remove, a chief asked the agent to sit down on a log. The agent did so. The chief then asked him to move, and very soon to move again, and again, until the agent got to the end of the log. The Indian then said "Move farther." "I cannot," replied the agent. "Just so it is with us," said the chief. "You have moved us as far as we can go, and then ask us to move still farther."

JENNY LIND AND HER ENCORE.—The following anecdote is told of Jenny Lind's experience in Vienna. She had been singing in *Somnambula*, and, after the curtain fell on the last act, the audience persistently encored the final rondo, which Jenny Lind hesitated to sing again. The house was getting uproarious, when she came forward and said, "Five minutes for lemonade." Accordingly, after a five minutes' rest and a glass of lemonade, she repeated the song. The Archduke Franz Karl, who was present, sent for the manager, and said to him, "Give my compliments to Miss Lind, and tell her I am very sorry; but the people have no consideration. Tell her also that I waited till she sung her song again."