

## SELECTIONS.

**THE AIR IN THE LUNGS** is exposed to 170,000,000 of cells, having a surface thirty times that of the body, and during respiration the air is deprived of oxygen and becomes loaded with deadly carbonic acid gas and rendered totally unfit for a second respiration, being in reality no longer atmospheric air but a poisonous gas.

**ON THE NORTH COAST OF IRELAND**, a gentleman saw above a hundred crows preying upon muscels. The mode of doing this was remarkable—each crow took a muscel up in the air twenty or forty yards high, and let it fall on the stones; and thus by breaking the shell got possession of the animal.

**MANUFACTURE OF SHELL COMEOS.**—We were not aware of what substance cameos were made until we were surprised by a friend of ours, Samuel Carter, an amateur artist belonging to Albany, whose univereal genius displayed to our astonished view some of the most beautiful carvings that we have ever seen, made upon the Queen Conch shell. Since then we have made some inquiries into the business, and have collected the following facts relative to the art. The shells generally used are those of the flesh-eating Uivalve, which are formed of three layers of calcareous matter, each layer being a perpendicular lamina, placed side by side. The kinds which experience has proved to be the best for the purpose are the bull's mouth, the black-helmet, and the queen conch. The first is allowed to be the best. The art was confined to Rome for near half a century, and to Italy until the last twenty years. The first cameo made out of Italy, was by an Italian in Paris, and now about 200 persons are employed in making cameos in that city. The number of shells used annually thirty years ago, was about 300; the whole of which were sent to England, the value of each shell in Rome being about \$7. The number used in France last year was 100,500, in value (shell) \$44,800. The average value of large cameos made in Paris is about one dollar twelve and a half cents each. The whole value of cameos made in Paris last year was about \$200,000. In England not more than six persons are engaged in the trade. In America about the same number, but Yankee genius, as in the instance which we have adverted, has entered the field of cameo art, and soon we shall be provided with republican gems, carved by republican hands, to deck the bosoms of our republican girls.—*American Journal.*

**A MAN IN A FIX.**—At Columbus, Ohio, on the 20th inst., an old man, who was digging in a well on the side of a hill, was suddenly buried to his neck by the sand and gravel coming down on him. He remained in that situation for fifty hours. Nothing during that time was left undone, day and night, to rescue him. He was wedged in by the gravel in such a crooked position, that he could not be drawn out by force without breaking his limbs; and although there was no cessation in drawing up the gravel and stones, yet it caved in as taken out, and he was rescued only by digging a large opening by the side of the well, and protecting the sides as they dug, until finally they literally undermined him; and by thus loosening his legs, he was drawn out.

**A GREAT COAT.**—The editor of the Vicksburg Whig has seen a coat lately, that measured five feet around the waist. It was made for a gentleman from Kentucky, whose weight is about four hundred pounds, is 26 years old, and has not yet got his full growth. He is about six feet six inches in height, measures fifty-four inches over the breast, sixty around the waist, and twenty-two inches across the back.

**CURIOUS RESULTS OF VENTILATION.**—In a weaving mill near Manchester, where the ventilation was bad, the proprietor caused a fan to be mounted. The consequences soon became apparent in a curious manner. The operatives, little remarkable for olfactory refinement, instead of thanking their employer for his attention to their comfort and health, made a formal complaint to him that the ventilator had increased their appetites, and therefore entitled them to a corresponding increase of wages! By stopping the fan a part of the day the ventilation and voracity of the establishment were brought to a medium standard, and complaints ceased. The operatives' wages would but just support them, but any additional demands by their stomachs could only be answered by drafts upon their banks, which were by no means in a condition to answer them.

**GLUE MADE WATERPROOF.**—A mechanic in Albany has just made an experiment which promises to be of much advantage by making glue perfectly waterproof, and having the property of drying immediately after its application. His method, we learn, is first to immerse common glue in cold water until it becomes perfectly soft, but yet retaining its original form; after which, it is to be dissolved in common raw linseed oil, assisted by a gentle heat, until it becomes entirely taken up by the latter, after which it may be applied to substances for the adhesion to each other, in the way common glue is applied. It dries almost immediately, and water will exert no action upon it. It is unnecessary to say for how many valuable purposes in the arts this application may be used. For cabinet makers it is important, as mahogany veneers, when glued by this substance, will never fall off by exposure to the atmosphere. In ship building it will probably answer a valuable purpose, as it has infinitely more tenacity than common glue and becomes impervious to water.

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATION.**—It is an observation sanctioned by the almost unanimous testimony of those whose opinion is founded upon experience, that the vices of a public school are of a nature to be easily detected and to be corrected by discipline; while those of private

education creep on in contentment, frequently arrive at a remediless degree of maturity before they are discovered. The remark of the judicious Dr. Barrow on this head is at once striking and just. "The perpetual restraints under which the private pupil lives, and the constant presence of those much older than himself, do not suffer his propensities and passions to appear in their true colours, and frequently their course cannot be sufficiently regulated nor their excesses restrained. He does not grow open and ingenuously by unreserved communication with his equals, but artful and designing, by watching the sentiments of those more advanced in age, and the self-command which he seems to possess is often policy, not principle—hypocrisy, not virtue."

**THE FIRST ATLANTIC STEAMSHIP.**—The first Atlantic steamer was the *Savannah*, Capt. Rogers, built at New York. She was 300 tons burthen, ship-rigged. Her engine was 70 or 80 horse power, low pressure. She proceeded from New York to Savannah, whence she sailed in 1819 for Liverpool, making the passage in 22 days. In passing the Irish coast the smoke and steam from her chimneys gave her the appearance of a ship on fire, and vessels were despatched from the Cove of Cork to her relief. From Liverpool she went to Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg and Arundel, making the voyage from the latter port (in Norway) back to Savannah in 25 days. Crowned heads, ministers, officers of state, &c., visited her, and valuable services of plate, jewels, &c., were presented to her officers. She subsequently made the voyage to Constantinople and back, being the first steamer that traversed the Mediterranean sea, as well as the Atlantic Ocean. She was afterwards purchased to run as a packet between New York and Savannah.

**GIVE ME THE BIBLE.**—One of the most distinguished men of modern times said, "I have thought I am a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God; just hovering over the great gulch, till, a moment hence, I am no more seen! I drop into an unchangeable eternity! I want to know one thing—the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach me the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book! O, give me that book! At any price give the book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one book!"

**ARTIFICIAL AGATE.**—There are now made in Albany beautiful door knobs of common clay and some other mixtures. Mr. Pepper, of Albany, we believe, is the inventor, and it is not an imitation of agate merely, but is as real agate as that formed in nature's own laboratory. From this, by a process of remelting and careful but expeditious moulding and baking, in ovens similar in appearance to those used in cracker bakeries, Mr. Pepper manufactures door knobs and other articles of household ornament of rare durability and beauty. These door knobs are of the highest polish, and are blended with a variety of colours, and are strong and beautiful. Set in silver or bronze, the knobs are sold at a rate which already commands the market. It is, perhaps, not generally known that the common clay (used in a crucible runs like water, and makes a beautiful stone. The door knobs in the Albany Argillo Works are fused and then put into the annealing oven. After the knobs come out of this, they have no appearance of agate until they are ground and polished, which is done by cast iron grindstones, on which a stream of wet sand continually flows. The method of grinding is not ingenious, all being done by hand. It is not possible to conceive to what perfection the manufacture of glass and earthenware may be brought, and to what purposes the article may yet be applied. The balance spring of a chronometer is now made of glass, as a substitute for steel, and possesses a greater degree of elasticity and a greater power of resisting the alternations of heat and cold. One of these chronometers with a glass balance spring has been exposed to competition with nine other chronometers on a long voyage, and the result was in favour of the glass spring one.

**THE CICADA, OR AMERICAN LOCUST.**—This is one of the most remarkable insects in natural history. It is hatched in a tree where the egg is deposited, falls to the ground in the shape of a small worm, and immediately buries itself in the earth. Its downward progress is continued to a considerable distance, some writers say fifteen feet below the surface. At all events, whatever may be the average depth to which they descend, it is certain that they remain in the earth seventeen years. At the expiration of that time they re-appear upon the surface, pass out of the chrysalis state, assume wings, and in immense numbers occupy the trees, and fill the air with their noise. They do no damage to the ground crops, but young twigs suffer severely from the deposition of their eggs in the tender limbs. The short period of their existence above ground is spent in preparing for a new brood, by depositing their eggs in the limbs and twigs of trees. The ovipositor of the female locust is admirably adapted to the purpose of boring small holes in the tender bark and wood into which the eggs are introduced. The existence of the locust from the time of leaving the earth until its death, is from 20 to 25 days; and during that time it does not appear to eat any thing, some naturalists asserting that they are not provided with the organs of eating. Doubtless the present appearance of the cicada in the west will attract the attention of men of science in that quarter to a minute study and observation of the nature and characteristics of this curious insect.—*Phil. Ledger.*

Geology proves that the palm-tree formerly grew, and the crocodile and turtle lived in England.