

As the soil gradually acquires depth, the balsamoplayers and aspens overpower the willows; which, however, continue to form a line of demarcation between the lake and the encroaching forest. Considerable sheets of water are also cut off on the north-west side of the lake where the bird's eye limestone forms the whole of the coast. Very recently this corner was deeply indented by narrow branching bays, whose outer points were limestone cliffs. Under the action of frost, the thin horizontal beds of this stone split up, crevices are formed perpendicularly, large blocks are detached, and the cliff is rapidly overthrown, soon becoming masked by its own ruins. In a season or two the slabs break into small fragments, which are tossed up by the waves across the neck of the bay into the form of narrow, ridgeline beaches, from twenty to thirty feet high. Mud and vegetable matter gradually fill up the pieces of water thus secluded; a willow swamp is formed; and when the ground is somewhat consolidated, the willows are replaced by a grove of aspens.—*Sir John Richardson.*

How to Burn Coal.—The art of burning coal is a little properly understood as it ought to be. Too much coal is usually placed in the stove, by which the draught is destroyed and the gases are imperfectly consumed. The *Miners' Journal* of Pottsville says there are two errors in the way we burn coal, by which more than one half is wasted. 1st. We have to shut the door of our stove or furnace, to make a temporary over-combustion at one time, and at another time we have to leave open the door and let in cold air to cool off. 2. The gas that ascends our chimneys carries off with it a deal of coal that is unburned, merely coal in vapour, which gives out little heat for want of air to consume it. We lose the most of the unconsumed vapour of coal when the door is shut. When it is open the vapour is consumed, but the heat is reduced by a flood of cold air, and carried up the chimney. What is required then is an air-tight door over the ash-pit, through which you can let in just what air is necessary for quick or slow combustion as desired. The door that admits the coal should be tight, and should never be opened except to put coal in. A small flue should admit a stream of air, heated by contact with the stove, to mix with the gas on top of the fire. In buying a stove, if you find that the stove or furnace door must be left open when you want to moderate your fire, reject it; for it is essentially wrong in its construction, and it will consume three tons of coal where one would answer if the draft door were air-tight.

MR. GALTON'S EXPEDITION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.—Letters have been received from the enterprising traveller, Mr. Galton, who our readers will remember, started for the Great Lake, via Walwich Bay, in September last. Mr. Galton writes, under date 1st of March, from latitude 52° south, longitude 16° 49 east. Mr. Galton arrived in the Damara country in October. He reports constant fighting and wars of reprisals between the Damara and the Namaquas, which commenced four years ago, but had lately increased in ferocity and extent; Jouker Afrikaner being a principal mover. The destruction of the village of Demarus, gathered around Mr. Kolbe's mission station, reported in the papers at the time, and the purchase of plundered cattle by white men, and had led to difficulties in the way of Mr. Galton's progress, and to the prospects of commerce. Mr. Galton on his arrival in that country, wrote to Jouker Afrikaner, acquainting him with the instructions he had received from the governor to establish friendly relations with the native tribes on the route to lake N'gami, with a

view to prepare them for future commerce, and to warn them against any attempts to dispossess them of their country; and intimating the displeasure of the British Governor at the oppression of the other tribes by the Namaquas. Jouker's answer was delayed a month, and was unsatisfactory, and Mr. Galton then rode straight to him with an escort of only three followers, and succeeded in thoroughly alarming him. He made Jouker write a most ample acknowledgment of his wrong to Mr. Kolbe; and advised him to make the same acknowledgement to the British Governor, which he did, and sent it by a messenger forthwith to the colony. Mr. Galton also made Jouker send for a neighboring captain of the red people, and made him also solemnly undertake to leave off oppressing the Damaras, and wrote a few simple laws to meet cases of cattle stealing, which were cordially agreed to. One of these laws provided for the equal punishment of Namaquas with the Damaras for stealing. Some of their own disputes were also voluntarily referred to Mr. Galton as umpire. Mr. Galton received much valuable and interesting information respecting the transactions in that part of the country for some years past, from the diary of Mr. Mahn, the longest resident missionary among the Damaras. Mr. Galton, at the dates of his letters, was to start for the interior in two days, but intimates his intention of returning that way in about six months. A considerable impression has been made on the native minds by Mr. Galton's visit, and a way appears to be prepared for the progress of European commerce and civilization in that direction at no very distant period, but very much will depend on the conduct of those here, who hereafter attempt to open out further relations with the natives.—*Cape Town Paper.*

Unprecedented Ocean Steaming.

The steamship *Pacific*, Capt. Nye, Collins line, has made twenty-two passages across the Atlantic:—

Longest, 12 days 8 hours.

Shortest, 9 days 19 hours and 34 minutes.

—The latter, no doubt the shortest passage, mean or true time, ever made. The average of all her passages is under eleven days.

The steamers of the Collins line have done better this winter than ever before. Their passages lately have been astonishing. Crossing the Atlantic to the westward in the middle of winter in less than eleven days is wonderful. The company, however, find it a losing business. Their expenses are enormous, and the income from the government and passengers too small to prevent serious loss. If the government does not come forward and give this line substantial aid, it will be abandoned. The Emperor of Russia has signified a desire to purchase these magnificent steamships to form a nucleus for a powerful steam navy. Cannot something be done at once, to prevent these vessels from falling into the hands of a foreign government?—*N. Y. Herald.*

Mr. Hiram Powers is engaged on a large allegorical statue of California, typified by a beautiful Indian female. In her hand is a divining rod, with which she points to a mass of metallic quartz, like that recently exhibited in the east nave of the Crystal Palace. The voluptuous form, the laughing eye, and the gorgeous richness of her cap, armbands, and bracelets of native ore, are intended to suggest the fascinations of the land of gold; while a warning moral is hidden in her right hand which grasps a bunch of thorns, but so disposes them as to be unseen at the first hasty glance of the spectator.