

Labor Notes.

Good painters and bricklayers are in demand at Detroit.

The job printers of Chicago are about demanding \$24 a week.

The strike of the cigar makers in Leavenworth is ended.

It is reported that the tailors in Crief intend to strike about April, unless their demands for a rise of wages are acceded to.

In the Maryland Legislature an effort is being made to abolish the contract system in the penitentiaries and prisons of that State.

Six hundred joiners struck work at Leicester on Monday, in order to get the nine hours system, and an advance in the rate of wages of one halfpenny per hour.

A mass meeting was held a few days since by the Carpet Weavers of Philadelphia, for the purpose of taking such measures as will lead to an advance of wages.

The Brickmakers at Pittsburg, south side, demand an increase of 25 per cent. to their present wages, and threaten to strike if their demands be not acceded to.

The wages of plasterers in Chicago is now four dollars a day, the employers having conceded with the request of the journeymen for an advance of fifty cents a day last week.

The masons at Markinch have succeeded in obtaining their request for an advance of a halfpenny per hour on their wages. This new system is to commence on the 1st of next month.

The carpenters of Brooklyn are on a strike for an increase of pay or eight hours as a day's labor. The painters are also on a strike yet, their demand being for \$3 per day for eight hours' work.

The master-builders of New York held a meeting at No. 27 Park-place, to consider the propriety of adopting the eight hour principle, but adjourned without taking any definite action in the matter.

The leading workmen of the city of New York have made application to Congress for a charter of a financial and labor institution of their own, with a capital stock of \$10,000,000, divided into shares of \$100 each.

At a meeting of the master cabinet-makers of Newcastle, it was resolved to concede the demand of their workmen for an advance of 10 per cent. in wages, and a reduction of the hours of labour to 53 per week.

The Capitalists of Portland have locked their workmen out for demanding the sum of \$1 60 per day for December, January and February, and \$1 75 for the month of March. The quarry owners refused and locked the men out since the 1st of December.

A mass meeting in favour of the enforcement of the Eight Hour Law was held in Brooklyn, Wednesday evening. Addresses were made by Messrs. Jessup, Griffin and Browning, of New York, and Walsh, of Brooklyn. The meeting was large and enthusiastic.

The Plasterers' Union, of Chicago, recently organized, now numbers between 300 and 400 members, and promises to reach its old time excellence. One of the most gratifying features connected with its present success is that nearly all the names of the No. 1 workmen are enrolled on its books.

There are twenty-six co-operative associations in Massachusetts, and the whole amount of tax paid by them last year was \$1,409.55. The Westfield Cigarmakers' Association paid the largest amount, \$371; the Union Cigarmakers' Association paying the next highest tax, \$103.88.

The Crispiens of Elmira, N. Y., the "banner town of Unionism," are out on strike, and the merchants of that city have extended to the men the most generous proofs of their sympathy. Liberal donations from other organizations are pouring into the Crispin treasury, and the earnest sympathy of other Unions are giving indomitable courage to the gallant knights.

On application by the State Workingmen's Assembly, the Assembly Chamber at Albany was, on motion of Mr. Jacobs of King's county, granted by that body in order to hold the annual session of the Machinists' and Blacksmiths' International Union of North America, on the third Wednesday of September next. The session is expected to be the largest ever held by that body.

On Monday, the Dundee tailors struck work, their demand for a reduction of the hours of labour and increase of pay not having been conceded. About 250 men have left their employment. It is expected that a settlement will be effected. The Dundee tailors conferred on Monday with their employers in regard to the strike, and the latter agreed to concede the demand of the men. The men therefore resumed work on Tuesday.

At a general meeting of the Aberdeen printers, held on Saturday, it was unanimously resolved that the masters be memorialised to reduce the working hours from fifty-seven to fifty-one per week, without any reduction of wages to those paid by the week, and that piece hands get an advance of 4d per thousand—the alteration to come into effect on 20th June next. One firm has already intimated willingness to grant the request of the men.

Two hundred and seventy-two persons were killed in the Pennsylvania coal mines last year by bad air and explosions, and 600 more were badly injured during the same time.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

Internationalism has been declared by a German jury to be high treason against the German Empire.

Anarchy is said to reign throughout Northern Mexico. The revolutionists, after having been badly defeated, received reinforcements, resumed the offensive, and have re-occupied Zacatecas.

A mad cow caused a great sensation at Cork the other day. The infuriated animal gored a cab-horse on the South-mall, knocked down a man, tossed an old woman, and injured some children. The cow, after dashing through the principal thoroughfares, proceeded up Sunday's-well, and was shot by a constable of police.

A very daring act of brigandage has just been committed in Spain. The Andalusian train, on its way to Madrid, was brought to a standstill by the rails having been torn up, when it was attacked by a band of brigands, and plundered of £3,000 and other booty, and three persons who ventured on resistance were wounded. The robbers appear to have escaped.

The Australian papers give us the true account of the shelling of a native village by Her Majesty's ship *Rosario*. It appears that the *Rosario* visited the island where Bishop Patterson was murdered, and as the boats attempted to land they were fired on, and one seaman killed and another wounded. It was then that the *Rosario* shelled a native village, and killed nearly 30 of the inhabitants.

TERRIFIC COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—A colliery explosion occurred on Thursday at Atherton, a village about six miles from Bolton, by which twenty-seven men and boys were killed, and eleven men injured more or less seriously. The pit where the accident occurred is the *Lovers' Lane*, or *Old Chain Pit*, and is the property of Messrs. John Fletcher and Co. For some time there has been a great deal of gas in the mine, but every precaution had, it is said, been taken to prevent any accident. The Davy lamp was used, and the key was kept by the underlooker, who was among those killed. Many of the boys were scorched to cinders. Several men had the skin of their faces and hands curled almost into ribands.

NICE YOUNG LADIES.—A New York paper says that some days ago there landed at Arkona, by way of the Erie railroad, a party of six males and two females, and at the depot they were met by two men, evidently of the same party. Carriages were quickly provided, and the party with their baggage mysteriously moved for some point in the country in a southward direction. They proved to be "sports" from New York city, and are engaged in training two young "ladies" for a genuine prize fight for \$1,000 a side, which will shortly come off. The women are of some foreign nationality, having arrived in this country at an early age, and are noted for their "clearing out" propensities, having thrashed everything in their immediate neighbourhood for years past. The female pugilists are in good trim. One has been reduced from 200 lbs. to 172 lbs., the other from 185 lbs. to 156 lbs. Their ages are respectively 19 and 22.

A SHIP ATTACKED BY A WHALE.—An unusual, though by no means unprecedented, occurrence (says an Australian paper) is reported by Captain Lockyer, of the barque *King Oscar*. Her account of it is much as follows:—The barque sailed from Hobart Town for this port on the 12th ult., and on the 15th, when 30 miles to the eastward of Cape Howe, sighted a large sperm whale, distant about 300 yards, and proceeding in the same direction. The monster fish remained in company some considerable time—four days, it is said—and finally it was seen to lift its head out of the water and make a furious dash at the vessel, striking her with tremendous force and careening her over several streaks. Those who felt the shock compare it to the striking of a vessel on a rock, so violent was it. The pumps were at once sounded, but at first it was supposed that no material damage had been done; subsequent soundings showed, however, that the barque was making water at the rate of six inches an hour, and this she continued doing up to date of arrival.

SHOCKING EXPLOSION.—NINE GIRLS SUFFOCATED.—On Saturday morning Tucknall, a populous mining village in West Cornwall, was the scene of a sad accident, by which nine girls, between the ages of 17 and 21, lost their lives. About 100 girls are employed in Messrs. Bickford, Smith and Co.'s factory, in which patent fuse is manufactured. A number of girls attended to clean up the spinning-rooms. In one room, about 23 feet square and 18 feet from floor to apex of open roof, three girls were supposed to be thus engaged. Between ten and eleven o'clock a girl rushed from the room giving an alarm of fire. The room was found to be filled with a dense smoke, but no fire was visible. When the smoke was cleared away sufficiently to permit the engineer, Mr. Hockin, and his assistants to enter the room, they were horrified at the spectacle which lay before them. Piled one upon the other, and clinging to each other in various ways, some arm in arm, and others clasped round the body, were nine young women, all dead, who, but 10 or 15 minutes previously, had been in the prime of health and strength. Some of them lay as if in sleep, whilst others were slightly burnt on arms or face, where they had fallen against the burning fuse. They had been suffocated in their attempt to escape. The cause of the accident is not known.

THE WARWICKSHIRE LABORER.

INAUGURATION OF THE WARWICKSHIRE LABORERS' UNION.

The Warwickshire Laborers' Union was recently "inaugurated" by a public meeting at Leamington. Large numbers of laborers attended, and there were present the Hon. Auberon Herbert, M.P.; Mr. Jenkins, the author of "Ginx's Baby;" Dr. Sandwith, London; and Dr. A. Langford and Mr. Jesse Collins, of Birmingham.

These gentlemen approved the proposed Union as affording the best chance of obtaining the objects sought. One of the chief evils agricultural labor suffered from was a superfluity of unskilled labor. Therefore a Union, when formed, should endeavour to reduce the labor supply by emigration or otherwise, so as to meet the farmers on more equal terms. They endeavored to form a permanent society to protect their interests, and mentioned various subjects affecting the welfare of laborers to which attention might profitably be directed. One most effectual means of improving their position would be the passing of a general measure for compulsory education. They approved the laborers' suggestion of settling existing difficulties with employers by arbitration, and said arbitration was well worth the consideration of both employers and employed. They concluded by expressing the pleasure with which they had observed the practical character of their objects and the studied tone of moderation preserved throughout. The chairman announced a letter from an unknown friend, with a donation of £100. The friend counselled moderation, but said the right of combination must be fought to the death. The chairman, in addressing the meeting, strongly urged laborers to adhere to the Union, whose object was purely self-defence, for unity constituted their strength. He affirmed that Parliament had acknowledged trade unions by giving them the protection required for their funds. Laborers had the same right to get the best price for their labor as the farmer had for his produce. Such a laborers' combination was indispensable. He denied that trade unions fostered strikes, and quoted statistics to show that they spent their funds, not in fostering strikes, but in providing help to members, and that, according to Mr. Rupert Kettle, without Unions arbitration decisions could not be enforced.

HOW THE LABOURER WAS MADE TO FEEL HIS SERFDOM.

The special correspondent, writing from Wellsbourne, says:—"Labourers are being coaxed not to join the Union; vengeance is taken against men who have joined the Union by dismissal from employment, and the forfeiture of their cottages. The struggle is between independence and the maintenance of a despotism, often genially enough administered, but ignoring in its very essence the theory that the labourer is a free man, not an inferior being. Everything was made to assist in keeping him dependent, and to kill in him any thought of possibility that he could be other than dependent. His villainship was before his eyes at every turn; when any help was given to his means of subsistence, it did not take the form of raised wages, but of charitable doles. He was made to understand that his cottage was scarcely other than nominally rented, and that he was thus in receipt of a privilege that bound him to the soil and barred him from murmuring at the lowliness of his stipend. Soup and coals were given him in winter, just as syrup is administered to bees in the cold season, that they may not have perished against the flower-time comes round when honey is to be made. A frock was now and then given to a child, and at an agricultural gathering the sluggish blood of Hodge was stirred by the presentation of a guinea and a medal, in appreciation of his having plodded uncomplainingly through his work for an exceptional number of years. Hodge was as much a serf as if he wore the collar of Cedric the Saxon round his neck. Hodge has suddenly found that the collar is not fast soldered; and he has somehow got his head up and his back straight, and vows he means to slave it no longer. His 'masters'—Hodge has found out that 'masters' is an ugly word, and substitutes 'employers,' as if words mattered!—are ready to soften for him the hard bed of servitude if he will only lie down on it again, and purge his head of these new-fangled pestilential notions."

LABORER'S REWARD.

Four hours' labor per day, honestly and energetically devoted to production by all mankind, would furnish the necessities of life to a greater extent than is now possessed on the average.

Eight hours of honest labor, by all mankind, would suffice to furnish all with the comforts of life.

It is true this estimate is made upon the supposition that all will do their best, using all diligence, all skill in production, and care and judgment in making the most of labor's product.

This would secure, to the lowest grade of workmen, comforts and luxuries; and, in the ascending scale, according to the ingenuity of inventive skill in the various occupations, increasing rewards.

If all mankind were of the lowest grade of ability, then all would be in possession of a very low state of enjoyment.

If all were of the highest class of ability, and were faithfully to use their talent, then all mankind would enjoy a high degree of luxury.

But as there are every varying degrees of capacity, of fidelity, and of circumstance, it must necessarily be that the acquisitions of men will correspondingly vary.

It is only by superior capacity, devotion to labor, and favoring circumstances, that ability exists to cause those productions which require very large expenditures. To this cause we are indebted for all the magnificent monuments of man's invention and man's skill.

It is intended by the Creator that the man whom he has gifted with ten talents should produce relatively more than he whom he has endowed with only one talent, just in the same way that rich soil is expected to produce more than a poor soil.—*Guardian*.

For this the Boston *Transcript* is responsible. An enthusiastic ritualist wishing to make a gift to his rector at Easter, ordered a beautifully embroidered clerical vestment to be made in another city. He gave directions that the garment should be sent by express and marked C. O. D.—and so it was, in the most elegant style of fancy needle-work, and probably upon the back, where it could be plainly seen by men and women.

HOW A TOWN WAS SCARED.

A MASSACHUSETTS GHOST STORY EXPLAINED.

A correspondent of the *Springfield Republican* at Monson, who is skeptical as to supernatural appearances, has been quietly investigating the circumstances attending the ghost excitement about that place, a few months ago, and has solved the mystery to his full satisfaction. The story, as he tells it, is that a very young man became enamored, last summer, of a fascinating maiden, residing about a mile from the village, and was accustomed to call upon her several times a week. An older brother, finding that the youthful *Romeo* was causing some gossip by his frequent attentions, resolved to stop them, and hit upon the plan of frightening him in the guise of a ghost. Knowing that the lad was courageous, however, he "appeared" first to another member of the family. By strapping a broom upon his back, with the bushy part projecting over his head, he successfully disguised his height, and by means of a big black dress, presented in the night the appearance of a woman about six feet and eight inches tall. Thus attired, he secreted himself in the new church, and when his victim came along, pounced upon him and chased him home, where he arrived breathless with fright. This incident produced much excitement in the community, but the intrepid *Romeo*, undismayed by ghosts, steadfastly continued his visits to the object of his affections. The heaven of fear was working, however, and, about a week later, the "ghost" accosted and chased a man on his way to the quarry, at early day-break, after which the 3,000 inhabitants of Monson were so wrought up that even men were afraid to venture out at night, except in bands. But love still conquered fear; the youngster continued his tri-weekly trips, until one night, while returning home, the frightful ghost of which he had heard so much confronted him at a lonely spot in the road. The first impulse was to run, but the ghost ran too; he walked, and the ghost assumed a measured tread and continued uncomfortably near; he slackened his pace, and the dreaded being stalked past him, and remained before or behind until he reached home, frightened nearly to death. The ghost-personator, having accomplished his purpose, thereafter kept his own counsel and retired from the business, but the terrified people of the town saw a spectre in every bush, and the ghost was reported in half-a-dozen places after he had finally disappeared from view. The new church was watched for many a night; the woods were searched by bands of men, who took care to keep together; one man was so nervous as to shoot himself while in search of the ghost; and deadly fear for a time held the whole community.

A SMALL ENGINE.

The smallest steam engine in the world is in the possession of John Penn, of Greenwich, England, the eminent maker of great engines. It will stand on a three-penny piece; it really covers less space, for its base-plate measures only three-eighths of an inch by about three-tenths. From the extreme smallness of this model, a few minutiae—such, for instance, as the air-pump—have necessarily been omitted. Still, so small are some of the parts that they require a powerful magnifying glass to see their form. The screws are all furnished with hexagonal nuts, which can be loosened or tightened by a Lilliputian spanner. It works admirably, and, when in operation, its crank-shaft performs from twenty to thirty thousand revolutions in a minute.

METEORIC IRON IN GREENLAND.

The Swedish Arctic expedition has brought home a number of masses of meteoric iron found there upon the surface of the ground. These masses vary greatly in size, the largest weighing 49,000 Swedish pounds, or twenty-one tons English, with a sectional area of about forty-two square feet. This has been deposited in the hall of the Royal Academy at Stockholm. Another piece, weighing nine tons, has been presented to the Museum of Copenhagen. These specimens considerably exceed in size the famous mass at Yale College, which weighs 1,635 pounds, but are not larger than some blocks that have been observed in parts of South America. The Swedish chemist Berzelius was one of the first to examine meteoric iron to see if it contained elements different from those found on minerals of terrestrial origin; but he never detected anything new. This result is rather disappointing, as meteoric iron is now believed to come from sources outside of our world.—*Scientific*.

TEACH THE CHILDREN TO DRAW.

Teach a child first to read; not merely to speak words in the order they occur, but to read understandingly, slowly, and carefully for ideas. Next teach him how to use numbers in arithmetical calculations, and show him that in all the business of life, in all its study, in all its science, the statement of facts in figures is the most important element. Then teach him to draw. You may stop your teaching right there, if you will, and rest confident that, if the boy thus taught has any disposition to mental acquisition, he will find a way to make it. Not that further good teaching will not greatly assist his progress, but that the acquisitions named form a solid foundation upon which he may and, if his tastes are for learning, will build a noble superstructure.

The fundamental value of the two first elements of education named are generally appreciated by educators in this country; the third is only beginning to be appreciated. In the Boston public schools, drawing is now to be made a part of the course of study. The teachers are, we are told, to be taught how to teach drawing, at least such of them as have not the requisite knowledge. This accomplishment should be a part of every teacher's legal qualifications for employment in a public school, not merely because it enables him to give lessons in drawing, but because in the present age the power to draw rapidly and well is a means for the expression of ideas scarcely inferior to language; nay, without which it is impossible to convey certain ideas at all, in the absence of the objects delineated by the skilled pencil of the craftsman.

We cannot carry with us in our pockets geological and mineralogical cabinets, collections of shells and plants, museums of machinery and galleries of art. The power to represent such things as we cannot have at hand in talking about them has become essential to every one who aspires to anything like eminence in

science or the arts. Even in walks of life not intimately connected with science and art, (daily becoming fewer) the power to draw is one that often saves time and money.

We speak, of course, more particularly of free hand drawing. Mechanical or geometrical drawing, as it is called, pertains to certain branches of business which will engage only a few out of the many youths now in our schools. A knowledge of it and skill in it can easily be acquired after the other, and will be attained by those who find it necessary to their callings.—*Scientific American*.

SCIENCE PERFECTING SWIMMING.

Frederick Barnett, of Paris, has patented a novel yet simple apparatus for swimmers. The invention consists in supplying to man, by art, the apparatus which has been given to the frog by nature. For the hands, he has a large membranous fin which is held to its place by loops passing over the fingers and a strap around the wrist. The surface presented to the water by these fins is so large as to add greatly to the effectiveness of the strokes of the arm, but not so large as to exhaust the muscular power. Their effect is to very much reduce the effort usually required in swimming. But the greatest ingenuity is displayed in the form and fitness of the fins for the legs, which are attached to the ankles, and are so formed that they act upon the water, both in the movement of bringing the legs and throwing them back. They act so finely in treading water, as swimmers call it, that one can really walk, if not on the water, at least in it. The difference between swimming with this apparatus and without it, is very much like the difference between rowing a boat with a handle and the blade of an oar. The old swimmer has no trouble in using the fins at first trial, and is surprised to find with what strength he can swim without exhaustion. He easily swims twice as fast with the apparatus as without it, and with it he can sustain himself for hours upon the water, or swim many miles.

THE PURSUIT OF STRENGTH.

Those unfortunates who devote their lives to the pursuit of strength, according to *Hall's Journal of Health*, who rise at unearthly hours, and shiver under ice cold shower baths, who never eat as much as they wish or what they wish, who live as mechanically as possible, and conscientiously deprive themselves of about all reasonable enjoyment, are certainly to be pitied. Still their terrible system leaves them alone during the night. If they eat, drink, move, and have their being under its supervision, through the day, at night they can sleep undisturbed. But a new school has arisen California. Some crack-brained enthusiast has announced that he has prolonged his life for years by sleeping with his finger tips touching his toes. The reason of the advantage of this proceeding is not at first evident, but is easily understood when we read that "the vital electrical currents are thus kept in even circumference, instead of being thrown off at the extremities and wasted." The discoverer has given the valuable secret gratuitously to the world, actuated solely by a desire to benefit suffering humanity. "Machines, warranted to hold the body easily in this position, can be obtained only of," etc., etc. If the method comes into general use, our prosperity will, we fear, be a "stiff-backed generation."—*Chicago Tribune*.

UNITED STATES.

A blushing bride in Missouri handed her marriage certificate to the conductor instead of her ticket, and was horrified to hear the announcement that it wasn't good.

An embryo Barnum of 9 years, in Virginia City, Nevada, painted his little brother in the latest style of the fierce Sioux, and exhibited him as a captured son of Spotted Tail at 25 cents a ticket. His mother visited the show, and recognized and reclaimed her darling.

A Detroit saddler owns a monkey which usually sits on the counter. A countryman came in one day while the proprietor was in the back-room, and seeing a saddle that suited him, asked the price. Monkey said nothing. Customer said, "I'll give twenty dollars for it, laying down the money, which monkey shoved in the drawer. The man then took the saddle, but monkey mounted him, tore his hair, scratched his face and made the frightened rustic scream for dear life. Proprietor rushed in to know what the fuss was. Fuss, said the customer, fuss. I bought a saddle of your son, sitting there. And when I went to take it, he would not let me have it. The saddler apologized for the monkey, but denied the relationship.

The Boston journals announce, as a rare occurrence, the arrival at that port of a vessel laden with five hundred tons of white cliff stone, quarried near the seashore on the Island of Negropont, in the Greek Archipelago. This is the first importation into Boston of that kind of stone. It has a white, chalky appearance, and is used for the manufacture of an artificial stone of rare beauty and polish. Mines of this stone exist in Pennsylvania, California and South America, but as the quarry in Greece is situated directly on the seashore, it is claimed that it can be shipped to the United States at less expense than the places mentioned. The stone is reduced to fine powder, and then mixed with other mineral substances and moistened with "bittern" water, or the brine from which salt has been deposited. In this condition it forms an artificial stone of rare beauty and polish.

Among the surprising results of the Chicago fire, none is more surprising than the unprecedented impulse which had been given to real estate transactions. While other branches of business have rallied, and fully reached their anti-fire level, real estate business has surpassed its old level. Immediately after the fire, and during a period of three or four weeks, it stood still; then commenced to rally, and has grown steadily and rapidly ever since, and now it is larger, healthier, and more active than at any time in the history of the city. The largest aggregate of transfers for any one week previous to the fire, was about a year ago, when the volume of sales reached \$1,500,000, while during the last week, the aggregate reached \$1,619,207, the largest ever made. Of this amount there were 223 transfers, amounting to \$1,487,032 within the city limits, and the remainder representing \$132,175, being suburban property, showing that the great bulk of these transfers were made for permanent improvement.