

ST. ANDREW'S RAILWAY COMPANY.—A general meeting of the Shareholders of this Company was held at the Town Hall, at St. Andrews, on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at which the Secretary read the Annual Report of the Directors, from which it appears that the total receipts have been £24,668 19.; disbursements on account of the actual construction of the works, engineering, office, law, and other incidental expenses, £25,371 8s. 2d.—leaving a balance against the Company of £1202 9s. 2d. In addition to this amount, the sum of £10,276 16s. has been expended in England on account of iron rails, engine, tender, and other ordinary expenses. Mr. Myer's contract for grading and making all the earth work for ten miles will expire on the 1st July next, and it is expected that this distance will be finished during the present summer. A provisional agreement has been made with a Mr. Shaw, an English contractor of eminence, for the completion of the entire unfinished road to Woodstock, his agent (Mr. Brookfield) having personally examined the whole line through the woods. Resolutions were passed approving of the suggestions of the London Board in reference to founding a settlement on the principles of the Canterbury one in New Zealand.—*Courier*, June 23.

THE NEW ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.—We are happy to have it in our power to announce the opening of the new route to the Pacific, across the territory of Nicaragua, by which over a thousand miles of navigation is avoided, and the land carriage is reduced more than two-thirds. The new steamer Prometheus is the first of the line, and will sail from this port on the 14th of July, direct for San Juan, from whence passengers will be transported by the river and lake in a new iron steamer, to within twelve miles of the Pacific, and from thence on a good road to San Juan del Sur, where the splendid ocean steamer Pacific will be in readiness to transport them to California. Cornelius Vanderbilt is the principal proprietor of this line. The saving of time and comparative comfort of this route, will entitle it to a preference over every other now open to California. It is confidently expected that the trip from New York to California, by these steamers, will be from six to eight days shorter than by the Isthmus, even if the railroad should be completed.—*N. Y. Post*.

DISCOVERY IN SURGERY.—Among the scientific critics in Berlin, according to the correspondent of the Philadelphia Bulletin, there has been some interest lately in a newly claimed discovery of the application of chlorine to cure cases of pain. The difficulty in the use of chloroform, thus far—and a difficulty felt far more in Europe than America—has been the danger of suffocation, or of otherwise injuring the body by a total stoppage of some of its functions. This new application claims the merit of escaping the danger. According to this account, the fluid, (some 10 or 20 drops,) is dropped on the part affected, or on a lint bandage slightly moistened with water, and then applied, and all bound up in oil silk, and a linen band. After from two to ten minutes the dart becomes insensible, and the pain is no longer

felt, whether it be from rheumatic, nervous, or other disorders. After a time it returns again, but usually weaker, and with several applications it is often entirely relieved. The discoverer's name is Aran, and he has already presented a memorial on the subject to the Academy of Paris.

A CURIOSITY.—Last week the workmen at Power's Summit, on the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad, found a petrified snake, the size of which would seem to indicate that in this region at least, that species of reptile has greatly degenerated. His snakeship was found imbedded in the solid limestone rock, some sixty feet below the earth's surface. Its size is enormous—sixteen feet in length, and in the middle at least four inches in diameter. Although its substance is completely assimilated to the rock in which it was imbedded, it looks surprisingly natural—indeed almost as perfect in "form and feature" as when alive.—*Beaver (Pennsylvania) Star*.

NATURAL SOAP IN NEW MEXICO.—John Gorman, Assistant Marshal, who was engaged in taking the census of New Mexico, discovered in the Town of Chimallo, in Rio Arriba county, a substance resembling soap. It makes a lather like soap, and has the property of removing grease spots or stains out of any kind of cloth. When put in water it immediately slacks like lime. At the place where the discovery was first made, it is even with the surface, and about fifteen yards square. It is rotten on the top to about the depth of three feet, but appears cleaner and sounder at greater depths. It can be taken out in large lumps, of ten or fifteen pounds weight. It is as white as snow, and seems to exist in large quantities. Specimens have been forwarded to the Census Office at Washington.

POPULATION OF FRANCE.—The census recently taken in France shows a total population of 25,500,000. The number of foreigners domiciled, of all nations, exceeds 1,000,000; of these upwards of 75,000 are English, in various parts of the country, which is considerably less than previous to the revolution, when it exceeded 150,000.

Mr. Fortune, the naturalist, has arrived at Calcutta, with upwards of 20,000 tea-plants, for the use of the Himalayan nurseries, Kemaon and Girhwall. The Assam Tea Company's plantations are also rapidly increasing, and there is little doubt that in a few years tea will be extensively produced in India.

A century ago the amount expended in books, periodicals, and newspapers, did not exceed £100,000 a year, whereas the sum now so expended annually is calculated at £2,100,000.

At Welburg, in the Northallerton union, is a female aged 103, who is active, and walks about the village without help. She remembers the Rev. Win. Dawson, rector of the parish, giving a dinner to the poor people on the day King George the Third was crowned, in September, 1761.

The King of Prussia has just named the Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael, sons of the Emperor of Russia, colonel of two Prussian regiments.