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PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

Vol. I.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1847.

No. 18

THE CHILD'S DREAM.

O! I have seen a glorious sight,
While sleeping on my bed, mamma:
A beauteous form all clothed in light,
Who seem'd a heavenly maid, mamma.

To me she came, fresh as the dew
Which gems the flowers in May, mamma;
She smiled so sweet, and to me flew,
And bade me come away, mamma.

I look'd, I loved, and paused a while—
How could I say her "No," mamma:
Her speech so kind, so sweet her smile,
I was obliged to go, mamma.

She took me in her snow-white hand,
And mounted to the air, mamma;
Far higher above sea and land
Than ever eagles were, mamma.

I fe't, I cannot tell you how:
O! had you been with me, mamma;
Such glories open'd to our view
As none but angels see, mamma.

The mountains, stretch'd from shore to shore,
Appear'd like little hills, mamma,
And seas and rivers seem'd no more
Than ponds and purling rills, mamma.

I sought to find papa's estate;
But, ah! 'twas much too small, mamma:
For now the world seem'd not so great
As William's cricket ball, mamma.

We saw the sun's bright fiery car
Grow little to our eye, mamma:
And quite outshot the farthest star,
Which glistens in yon sky, mamma.

But heaven at last, in glorious day,
Dawn'd on our distant view, mamma:
Beyond the sparkling milky way
More glorious still it grew, mamma.

Enwrap't in glory's brightest blaze,
I felt ecstatic bliss, mamma;
But what I heard of angels' praise,
I cannot now express, mamma.

No fear, nor pain, nor sorrow there
E'er clouds their heavenly face, mamma;
For sin, and death, and suff'ring are
All banish'd from the place, mamma.

No darkness there, nor wintry signs
Eclipse the blaze so bright, mamma;
For there the King of Glory shines,
And Jesus is its light, mamma.

I saw my sister Anne so bright,
Now freed from death's alarms, mamma;
With robes of si ver, dapt in light,
She clasp'd me in her arms, mamma.

O'ercome with joy when first she spake,
I utter'd such a scream, mamma,
As made your little Fanny wake,
And, lo! 'twas but a dream, mamma.

FEMALE TRIALS.

My heart always "stirs within me," when I read selections made by editors of newspapers, which are designed for married ladies, setting forth our duty with relation to "making our homes happy to our husbands, that we should *always* welcome them with a cheerful smile when they come in from the cares and fatigue of the day, and do all we can to make married life pleasant to them," etc. Now, this is well, I acknowledge, and I trust I strive daily to reduce so good a theory to practice. But allow me to enquire, if the cares and fatigues of the wife are always—I might say ever—appreciated by the husband.

Shall I give a short sketch of domestic life *as it is*, not, of course, describing a family as it should be, but I wish to give a fair example of every day life at home.

My neighbour, Mr. Benson, is a lawyer by profession, is what the world calls a respectable man. His income is small, but he married a lady who was able to furnish their small house handsomely, and they have some hope of prosperity in reversion. Mrs. B. was educated in modern times, and somewhat fashionably; so that the host of evils, which ignorant young housekeepers "arc heir to," came thick and fast upon her, when she started on the doubtful pilgrimage of matrimonial life.

But she had firm principles, energy of character, and devoted love for her husband, all good stimulants in the path of duty. She braved, like a heroine, all the "tea pot tempests" which often come from the clouds, not so "big as a man's hand," and in due time succeeded in making a cheerful and happy manager of their economical establishment. Mrs. B. has been a wife twelve years, and is a mother of five children, the youngest but a babe, and the family are as happy as a large portion of families.

It is Monday morning, and this speaks "unutterable things" to a New England wife, who has been married a dozen years. Mr. Benson has had his breakfast in season, has kissed the children, and gone to the office, where the boy has a good fire; the books and papers are all in order, and Mr. B. sits down to answer a few agreeable demands upon his time, which will evidently turn into cash. He goes home to his dinner punctually at one o'clock; it is ready for him; he takes it quietly; perhaps, frolics ten minutes with the baby, and then hurries back to the office. At the hour for tea he goes home; every thing is cheerful, and to quote the simple rhyme of an old song,

The hearth was clean, the fire was clear,
The kettle on for tea;
Benson was in his rocking chair,
And blest as man could be.

But how has it been with Mrs. Benson through the day? She has an ill natured girl in the kitchen, who will do *only* half the work at nine shillings per week. Monday morning, 8 o'clock: four children must be ready for school; Mrs. B. must sponge their faces, smooth their hair, see that books, slates, pencils, paper, pocket handkerchiefs (yes, four of them), are all in order, and now the baby is crying; the fire is low; it is time Sally should begin to wash the parlor, the chambers, the breakfast things are all waiting. Well, by a song to the baby, who lies kicking in the cradle, a smile to smooth ruffled Sally, and with all the energy that mind and body can summon, things are "straightened out," and the lofty pile of a week's rearing, begins to grow less; but time shortens with it; it is almost dinner time; by some accident that joint of meat is frozen; company calls; Mr. Benson forgot to get any eggs on Saturday, Mrs. B. must do the next best way; the bell rings twelve; the door opens, and in rush the children from school. John has torn his pantaloons; Mary must have some money then, to get a thimble, she has just lost hers; William has cut his finger with a piece of glass, and is calling loudly for his mother.

Poor Mrs. Benson endeavours to keep cheerful, and to look delighted during the hubbub, and now the dinner, by her efforts alone, is upon the table, her husband comes in, and perhaps wonders the "pic is not better warmed," and with this comment and a smile on the baby, he is off till it is time for tea. I forbear to finish the day, Mr. Editor, and shall only say that the afternoon is made up of little trials, too small to mention, but large enough to try the faith and patience of all the patriarchs.

Now, sir, this wife has surely borne the "burden and heat of the day;" her limbs are wearied; her whole energy of mind and body exhausted, and she is exhorted "to welcome her husband with a smile." She does it, for woman's love is stronger than death. I would ask, should not Mr. Benson give his wife a smile? What has he done to lighten her cares through the day? How is it? In nine cases out of ten, after sitting idle an hour, he wishes Mrs. B. would put all those noisy children to bed; he should be glad to have her tell David to go to the post office for letters and papers, and at length, when half way between sleeping and waking, he looks at his pale exhausted *help mate*, and exclaims, "well, wife, you begin to look a little fatigued."

I cannot ask you, Mr. Editor, if my picture is not a true one, for you are a stranger to the ways and cares of a married life; but I pray you, be more just, and now and then exhort husbands to do their part towards making home agreeable to their wives, when the latter have, like Atlas, borne a world of cares and vexations through the day.—CLEODORA.

—*American paper.*

THE FACTS AND REVELATIONS OF MODERN ASTRONOMY.

(From the North British Review.)

The article from which the following extracts are made, is attributed to Sir David Brewster.

In Dr. Nichol's work "On some important points relating to the System of the World," he treats of the material universe under two different aspects,—as represented in space and time by the grander phenomena of the heavens—and as represented in time by the evolutions of individual globes, such as the earth which we inhabit. Under the first of these heads, he describes the structure and extent of the sidereal arrangements, and explains the grounds upon which he has modified his former views relating to the constitution of nebulae; and he has illustrated this part of his work with beautiful and highly interesting engravings of the more important nebulae, as given by Sir John and Sir William Herschel, and as more recently exhibited in the great telescope of Lord Rosse. In the second part of his work, he treats of the analogy of the planets with the earth, and of the epochs of evolution through which the earth has passed—of the subsidence and elevation of seas and continents, the instructive phenomena of coral reefs, and islands;—and the interesting speculations of M. de Beaumont, respecting the age of mountains, and the different epochs at which the mountain chains of our globe were raised into their present position, are discussed with much ingenuity and eloquence, and illustrated by plates and diagrams, which cannot fail to add to the popularity of the work.

The limits necessarily assigned to this article, will not permit us to follow either, and still less both, of our authors, through the whole range of their discussions, and we must therefore perform the more difficult task of giving a general view of the system of the universe, and some of the more remarkable phenomena which are displayed in nearly every one of the planetary bodies which it is in our power to explore. In following this plan we shall carefully abstain from all extravagance of speculation, and call the attention of the reader to those facts and phenomena alone which must command universal belief, and to cautious deductions which reason and analogy will not fail to confirm.

The first and grandest object which arrests the heavenward eye is the glorious sun, the centre and soul of our system, the lamp that lights it, the fire that heats it, the sceptre that guides and controls it,—the fountain of colour, which gives its azure to the sky, its verdure to the fields, its rainbow hues to the gay world of flowers, and the "purple light of love" to the marble cheek of youth and beauty. This globe of fire is 883,000 miles in diameter, or 111½ times the diameter of our earth, and is 500 times larger than all the planets put together. It seems to consist of a dark nucleus, which is seen through openings in the

luminous crust, called the spots in the sun. It is therefore not an incandescent globe, and there is reason to think with M. Arago, that its light is that of burning gas. The light of the sun moves with the velocity of 192,000 miles in a minute. It is composed of three different colours, red, yellow, and blue, by the combination of which all the different colours in nature are produced. The solar light has more blue and less red in it than the artificial white flames with which we are familiar, and what is very remarkable, these artificial white flames contain many specific rays of a determinate refrangibility, which do not exist in the sun's light, from which they have probably been absorbed either in the process of combustion, or during the subsequent passage of the light through the solar atmosphere. The sun revolves round his axis in 25 sidereal days, and occupies a fixed position in reference to the other bodies of the system. Around the sun, and at the distance of 36 millions of miles, the planet Mercury revolves in nearly 88 days. Its diameter is only 3140 miles, and it revolves about its axis in 24 hours and 5 minutes. The best time for seeing this planet, which exhibits several of the phases of the moon, from a little more than a half moon to a thin crescent, is about one hour and three quarters before sunrise in autumn, and after sunset in spring. Mercury is occasionally seen in the form of a round black spot, passing across the sun's disc, a phenomena which will occur on the 9th November, 1848, the 11th November, 1861, and on the 4th November, 1863. According to Sir William Herschel's observations, the disc of Mercury was always equally luminous, without any dark spot or ragged edge; but M. Schroeter saw not only spots but mountains, the height of two of which he measured, and found one to be about a mile and a quarter in height, and the other about ten miles and three quarters, or near thrice as high as Chimborazo. We are not aware that these observations have been confirmed. Captain Smith looked for the spots on Mercury through his achromatic telescope, but though he did not find them, he should not have omitted, as he has done, all notice of the observations of Schroeter. The telescope of Lord Rosse will soon decide these and other disputed points in astronomy.

Next to Mercury the planet Venus revolves round the sun at the distance of sixty-eight millions of miles, in 224 days, 16 hours, performing her daily revolution about her axis in 23 hours 21 minutes. The diameter of Venus is 7700 miles, or a little less than that of the Earth. This planet is known even to the most illiterate observer, as the splendid morning and evening star, which occasionally precedes the rising, and follows the setting of the Sun. She shines with a peculiar brilliancy, giving a distinct shadow to opaque objects, and she exhibits all the phases of the Moon. Venus was mentioned by the prophet Isaiah as a morning star 2600 years ago, and is also noticed by Homer and Hesiod. Her splendour could not fail to attract popular attention, and being the nearest planet to our Earth, and almost of the same size, astronomers expected to discover analogous resemblances between the two. Sir W. Herschel and Schroeter have examined the surface of Venus with peculiar care. Both of them observed that the light is strongest at the outer limb, from which it decreases gradually to the interior edge. Sir W. Herschel saw spots upon the inner margin of the luminous crescent, not very unlike those seen long before by Bianchini. According to Schroeter, the light at the inner margin terminates in a ragged edge, and the cusps or horns of the planet are alternately blunt and sharp, a phenomenon which Schroeter supposes to arise from the shadow of a high mountain. This astronomer, who noticed that one of the cusps was bent like a hook, with a pale blue light at its apex, ascribed the appearance to the twilight produced by the atmosphere of the planet. Schroeter measured the altitude of four mountains in Venus, the highest of which were, as in Mercury, in the southern hemisphere. The highest was 22 miles, the next 19, another 11½, and lowest nearly 11 miles. Judging from analogy astronomers expected to find a moon or satellite revolving round this planet. Cassini, and Short, and Montaigne, declare positively that they saw it; but, notwithstanding the charge of dogmatism which Captain Smith has made against those who ascribe this observation to an optical illusion, we have no hesitation in repeating that opinion. It is surely more reasonable to believe that a false image of so bright a planet usurped the place of a satellite, than that the star seen by Short and others, and never seen since, had been blotted out of existence.

We have ourselves been summoned to see the satellite of Venus, and soon detected the origin of the false speck of light. Venus like Mercury, occasionally passes, in the form of a dark round spot, over the Sun, but no satellite has ever been seen to attend her on this occasion. Venus will pass over the Sun's disc on the 9th December, 1874, and on the 6th December, 1882.

The next body of the Solar System is our own Earth, our planetary home, our birth-place, and soon to be our grave. Viewing it, as we are now doing, as the third planet in order from the Sun, can we doubt that it is a globe like the rest—poised in ether, and moving round the central luminary? Knowing that it is the seat of life, and the abode of intelligence, can we doubt that the other planets have their inhabitants as well as ours? The diameter or axis of the Earth, round which it revolves in 24 hours, is 7898 miles, and its equatorial diameter 7924. It moves round the sun in 365 days, 6 hours, and it is accompanied by a Moon or Satellite, which revolves about her axis in 27 days, 8 hours, the time also of her revolution round the Earth, at the distance of 237,000 miles from our planet. Her diameter is 2160 miles. Her surface is composed of hill and dale, rocks and mountains, but no trace of water exists, and no appearance which indicates the existence of living beings. The grand object of the refulgent lamp of night is doubtless to give light to our globe, and to regulate the tides of our ocean. As our own Earth was long in preparation for the occupation of man, the Moon may in like manner be preparing for the reception of inhabitants. According to Sir W Herschel, the height of the lunar mountains which he measured varies from a quarter of a mile to a mile and three quarters; but M. Schroeter, following another method of measurement, found the insulated mountains so high as five miles. The surface of the Moon is distinguished from that of our Earth, and, indeed, of all the other planets, by caverns sometimes five miles in depth, and 40 miles in diameter. A high annular ridge, marked with lofty peaks and numerous little cavities, generally surrounds these caverns, and in its centre an insulated mountain is often found. "The strata of mountains," as we have elsewhere observed, "and the insulated hills which mark the disc of this luminary, have evidently no analogy with those in our own globe. Her mountainous scenery, however, bears a stronger resemblance to the towering sublimity and the terrific ruggedness of Alpine regions, than to the lower inequalities of less elevated countries. These masses of rock rise at once from the plains, and raise their peaked summits to an immense height in the air, while projecting crags spring from their rugged flanks, and threatening the valleys below, seem to bid defiance to the laws of gravitation. Around the base of these frightful eminences, are strewed numerous loose and unconnected fragments which time seems to have detached from their parent mass, and when we examine the rents and ravines which accompany the overhanging cliffs, we expect every moment that they are to be torn from their base, and that the process of destructive separation which we had contemplated in its effects is about to be exhibited in tremendous reality. The strata of Lunar mountains called the Apennines, which traverse a portion of the Moon's disc from north-east to south-west, rise with a precipitous and craggy front from the level of the Mare Imbrium. In some places their perpendicular elevation is about 4 miles, and though they often descend to a much lower level, they present an inaccessible barrier to the north-east, while in the south-west they sink in gentle declivity to the plains." That phenomena like these are the results of volcanic action and of earthquakes, analogy would lead us to believe—even if astronomers had not seen very distinct indications of active volcanoes in the dark part of the moon. Captain Smith saw near the centre of Aristarchus, on the 22nd December, 1835, "a light resembling that of a star of the 9th or 10th magnitude, appearing by glimpses, but at times brilliant, and visible for several seconds together." He saw the same phenomenon to great advantage on Christmas-day, 1832, (1842?) when it resembled a star of considerable size. The light of the moon is defective in all the specific rays which are wanting in the sun's light, and it is polarized in planes conformable to the laws of polarization from rough surfaces.

Immediately beyond the orbit in which we perform our annual round lies that of Mars, a red-colored planet indicating an atmosphere of great density and extent, though Sir James South has recently shown that it cannot be very extensive. Mars

revolves about his axis in 24 hours, 39 minutes, and round the sun in nearly 687 days. His distance from the sun is 142 millions of miles, and his diameter 4100 miles, not much more than half that of the earth. His aspect resembles that of our earth, showing an appearance of seas and continents, and of perpetual snow near its poles. Sir J. Herschel pronounces the seas in Mars to be green, and the land red. The face of Mars changes its aspect every 12½ hours owing to its rotation. The polar diameter of the planet is one-sixteenth less than the equatorial one.

(To be Continued.)

MEXICO.

The Intendency of Mexico consists of what is called the Valley of Mexico, a fine and splendid region, variegated by extensive lakes, and surrounded by some of the loftiest volcanic peaks of the new world. Its circumference is about 200 miles, and it forms the very centre of the great table land of Anahaue, elevated from 6000 to 8000 feet above the level of the sea. In the centre of this valley stands the city of Mexico; the ancient Mexico, or Tonuchtitan, having been built in the middle of a lake, and connected with the continent by extensive causeways or dikes. The new Mexico is three miles from the lake of Tezenco, and nearly six from that of Chalco; yet Humboldt considers it certain, from the remains of the ancient *teocalli*, or temples, that it occupies the identical position of the former city, and that a great part of the waters of the valley have been dried up. Mexico was long considered the largest city of America: but it is now surpassed by New York, perhaps even by Rio Janeiro. Some estimates have raised its population to 200,000: but it may, on good ground, be fixed at from 120,000 to 140,000. It is, beyond dispute, the most splendid. "Mexico is undoubtedly one of the finest cities built by Europeans in either hemisphere; with the exception of St. Petersburg, Berlin, Philadelphia, and some parts of Westminster, there does not exist a city of the same extent which can be compared to the capital of New Spain, for the uniform level of the ground on which it stands; for the regularity and breadth of the streets, and the extent of the squares and public places.

"The architecture is generally of a pure style, and there are even edifices of a very beautiful structure." The palace of the late viceroy, the cathedral, built in what is termed the Gothic style, several of the convents, and some private palaces, reared upon plans furnished by the pupils of the Academy of Fine Arts, are of great extent and magnificence; yet, upon the whole, it is rather the arrangement, regularity, and general effect of the city which render it so striking. Nothing in particular, can be more enchanting than the view of the city and valley from the surrounding heights. The eye sweeps over a vast extent of cultivated fields to the very face of the colossal mountains, covered with perpetual snow. The city appears as if washed by the waters of the lake of Tezenco, which, surrounded by villages and hamlets, resembles the most beautiful of the Swiss lakes; and the rich cultivation of the vicinity, forms a striking contrast with the naked mountains. Among these rise the famous volcano Popocatepeti, and the mountain of Iztaccihuatl, of which the first, an enormous cone, burns occasionally, throwing up smoke and ashes in the midst of eternal snows. The police of the city is excellent; most of the streets are handsomely paved, lighted, and cleaned. The annual consumption in Mexico has been computed at 16,300 hives; 279,000 sheep; 50,000 hogs; 1,600,000 fowls, including ducks and turkeys; 205,000 pigeons and partridges. The markets are remarkably well supplied with animal and vegetable productions, brought by crowds of canoes along the lake of Chalco, and the canal leading to it. These canoes are often guided by females, who, at the same time, are weaving cotton in their simple portable looms, or plucking fowls, and throwing the feathers into the water. Most of the flowers and roots are raised in *chinampers* or floating gardens, an invention peculiar to the new world. They consist of rafts formed of reeds, roots, and bushes, and covered with black saline mould, which, being irrigated by the water of the lake, becomes exceedingly fertile. It is a great disadvantage to Mexico, however, that it stands nearly on a level with the surrounding lake; which, in seasons of heavy rains, overwhelm it with destructive inundations. The construction of a *disague* or

canal, to carry off the waters of the lake of Zumpango, and of the principal river by which it is fed, has, since 1629, prevented any very desolating floods.

The *disague*, though not conducted with skill and judgment, cost £1,040,000, and is one of the most stupendous hydraulic works ever executed. Were it filled with water, the largest vessels of war might pass by it, through the range of mountains which bound the plain of Mexico. The alarms, however, have been frequent, and cannot well cease, while the level of the lake is twenty feet above that of the great square of Mexico.—*Murray's Encyclopedia of Geography.*

TO HAVE GOOD VINEGAR.

The cowherds on the Alps and in several parts of France use milk whey to make the sharpest vinegar, and they also extract from it a salt called in pharmacy sugar of milk, which the Swiss doctors consider as the best detergent to purify the blood and cure radically the most inveterate cutaneous complaints. The method they use to prepare the salt is this: after having separated all the caseous and oily parts, the whey is clarified and boiled until reduced to one-fourth part of the whole, which they deposit in wooden or earthen pans in a cool place. In a short time the saccharine particles are crystallized, the phlegmatic part is then decanted slowly and the sugar is dried upon pieces of grey paper. This operation may be accelerated by boiling out the whey entirely, but the sugar which remains at the bottom of the kettle is coloured and unfit for pharmaceutical purposes; it might, however, answer well for veterinary uses.

The process for making vinegar out of milk is very simple. After having clarified the whey, it is poured into casks with some aromatic plants or elder blossoms, as it suits the fancy, and exposed in the open air to the sun, where it soon acquires an uncommon degree of acidity.

The Russians and Tartars make with the whey of their mares' milk a strong and intoxicating liquor, which they call Koumis, and also vinegar, by suffering that substance to pass from the vinous to the acetous fermentation.—*Transactions of the Society of Arts, N. Y.*

Good vinegar is one of the necessary luxuries of the table, and with a little care it is always attainable by those who have apple orchards and cider of their own, and ought to be more generally supplied in our market than it is. When once a cask of good vinegar is procured, there need be no difficulty in keeping it filled with that of the same quality. The farmer should put away his good strong cider in substantial casks under cover, with the bung hole open to admit the air, and let it gradually undergo the necessary fermentation. If the casks are frequently shaken, and their contents occasionally drawn from one to another, the process is hastened. Mix nothing with it; let it be the pure cider. Draw from the hogshead to a barrel, and from the barrel to a five gallon keg, and from that again for the table. It is thus kept stirred, and comes in contact with the oxygen of the atmosphere, which will the more speedily sharpen it. Keep filling the hogshead with strong, sound cider, as you draw from it to fill the barrel, and the housewife need never spoil her pickles, nor mine host his cabbage, for lack of good vinegar.—*Farmer's Cabinet.*

POWER OF THE FAMILY.

No earthly association was ever known comparable to the family. Look at its permanency. The aspects of civil society have been almost as changeful as the clouds—one form rapidly succeeding another in an endless progress. But the family form, as if designed to be a similitude of the government of its great Author, remains, after the lapse of six thousand years, and the decay of every conceivable form of civil government. The moral power of this institution is not less wonderful. There are at least two millions of families in the United States. Now, what would be our impression, if we knew that there existed within the limits of our country two millions of small societies, all efficiently organized, the members of each compacted together by ties of the most inviolable nature. If they had, too, taken possession of the soil, secured the education of our future rulers, and officers of church and state of every grade, and had also indirectly or directly secured possession of the whole elective and law making power;—who would not feel solicitous about the character, aims and doings of these societies?—who

would not apprehend the worst consequences from the wrong exercise of their influence?—who would not tremble if that influence were turned against the civil and religious freedom, and the general well-being of the country? And who would not anxiously pray that a wise and saving control might be brought to bear upon this vast array of efficiently organized societies? Such are the families of the land, and such is their sway that the soil is theirs—the living, thinking, acting, swelling population is theirs—the men in authority, and the men under authority, are controlled by them—the schools, academies, colleges and churches are in their hands. They are the proprietors and lords paramount of the national territory and mind.

Oh, what an unspeakably momentous object of desire, and prayer, and effort, should it be to Christians, to Christian patriots and ministers, to bring these families under the saving sway of the gospel! Cannot much more be done than is now doing, to save families—to establish religion in them—to raise family altars where there are none, all over the land? Oh, were this done, how soon would all fears for our country vanish, and the waste places of Zion be built up!—*New-York Evangelist.*

LABOURING TOO MUCH.

People do not have relaxation enough in New England. They too generally have a care-worn expression, from infancy to age; and the fact cannot be denied, that anxiety is a weariness to the flesh. We are all utilitarians in this country, especially in the Northern States, hardly affording ourselves opportunity for eating or sleeping in the manner which nature demands—for she can only conduct her chemical operations properly, and re-adjust the deranged vital machinery, while we are quietly slumbering. We recruit ourselves and grow fat during a refreshing day—but exhaust the system, both physically and mentally, in pursuing to excess the ordinary round of every-day business.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is a proverb based on a profound knowledge of the laws of our being.

Females, in New England, are worse off than the other sex in the deprivation of out-of-door relaxation, as custom has made it vulgar to breathe the fresh air of Heaven, unless it is done in a lady-like manner.—Hence they make feeble mothers—look thin, sallow, lank, and die by thousands, prematurely, of diseases that never would have been developed had there been less education of the mind, and more of the body in girlhood.

A sad mistake is produced by a too implicit belief in the adage that "time is money," since the first object of pursuit is, in consequence, made to be cash. Those who attempt to rest reasonably from their labours, at proper periods, are either afraid of not having enough or are perpetually reminded that idleness ends in want. So the shuttle flies faster than it ought to go; the farmer cheats himself out of that which is worth having, health, by denying himself and his boys a holiday, because time is money and example is every thing; merchants in cities toil for the immediate benefit of thieves and paupers—paying taxes in proportion to their income—and leave the world unsatisfied, having never found themselves ready to rest and take comfort.—*Medical Journal.*

APPLES OF GOLD.

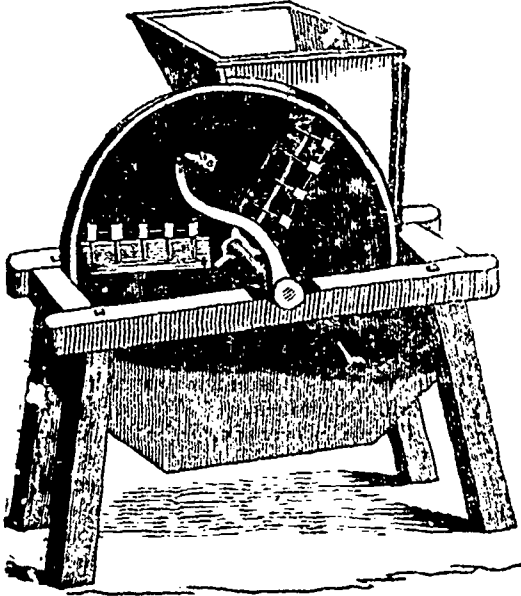
God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. iv. 6.

Without this saving knowledge, we have no God, no Christ, no grace, no faith, no union with Christ, no actual justification, pardon of sin, peace, nor eternal life. But whoever has found Christ, the pearl of great price, the treasure hid, has found matter of great rejoicing: for he was poor before, and this treasure enriched him; he was naked before, but, finding this treasure, he is gloriously clothed; he was forced before to feed upon husks, but now he feeds on the bread of life; he was far in debt before, but now he sees the debt is paid, that he is justified from all things, and pardoned for ever; he saw he was a child of wrath before, but now he is become a child of God; that he was a captive, and in chains before, but now he is set at liberty; condemned before, but now sees there is no condemnation to him, nor to any one that is in Christ Jesus; that he was a fool before, but now he is made wise to salvation. Reader canst thou set thy seal to the truth and power of such experience? Then thou art wise indeed; if not, thou hast much to learn; apply with speed, and remember, it is God alone that gives this light and knowledge.

Father of love and grace,
Thy light to me impart;
Reflected from thy dear Son's face,
And beaming on my heart.

VEGETABLE CUTTER.

If ever Canada, with its long winter, flourish, in an agricultural point of view, it must be by the extensive use of root crops. They can be sowed later in spring than other crops, thus extending the season of labour, and they afford a necessary supply for a stock of animals through the winter; but without an instrument to cut them, root crops are almost useless. The following is, we believe, a highly approved specimen of this article, so essential to agricultural prosperity:—



The cutting wheel of Ruggles, Nourse and Mason's Vegetable Cutter, is made of cast iron, faced on one side, through which are inserted three knives like plane-irons. These cut the vegetables into thin slices with great rapidity, and then by cross-knives they are cut into slips of convenient form and size for cattle or sheep to eat, without danger of choking. The pieces after cutting lie loosely and angling together, and can easily be taken up by the animal. This machine cuts a bushel in one minute.

SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION.

"And Cush begat Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one in the earth."
Genesis x. 8.

It would be hard to find anything against Nimrod in this *verso*, unless by inference founded principally upon his name, which signifies "a rebel." The probabilities are in favor of the opinion, that this chief, like most of the heroes of remote classical antiquity, addicted himself to hunting the wild beasts, and thus acquired qualities adapted to a warfare with men; his success in which was ensured by the number of bold and exercised men who had associated with him in his active occupations. According to both the American and European accounts, the land where Nimrod erected the first recorded kingdom in the world was in the allotment of the sons of Shem; and his revolt against the appointed distribution, and his violent encroachment upon the territory of another branch of the family of Noah, form the only points on which we have any good reason to rest the name which is given to him and the evil character he bears. For the statements that Nimrod was the author of the adoration of fire, or of idolatrous worship rendered to men, and that he was the first persecutor on the score of religion, there is no evidence in the Bible. Eastern authors add, that he was the first king in the world, and the first who wore a crown; and this may or may not be true.—*Pictorial Bible*.

CONFLICT WITH AN "OLD MAN KANGAROO."

(From *Five Years' Experience in Australia Felix*, by G. H. Hayden.)

Travelling one bright summer's day along the banks of a creek in Gipp's Land, which the scorching sun had left little more than a succession of water holes, and pondering on the probable destinies of the country I was passing through, then a vast wilderness, my reveries were interrupted by loud cries for help, mixed with coosys and curses; I was the more

surprised to find the sounds suddenly cease, but only for a short time, when the lungs of the individual appeared to have gathered, from fear or some other unaccountable stimulus, additional strength, and on making for the spot whence the sounds seemed to proceed, I was somewhat startled when I saw standing in the midst of a water hole, a huge old man kangaroo; a dog was lying on the brink, torn in several places, and bleeding profusely. My first impulse was to fire my rifle at the kangaroo, but my attention was diverted by seeing a human head, with the face scratched and bloody, thrust up from among some reeds which were growing around the margin of the water. The mystery of the shouting was now clear enough: it was evident that the man and the kangaroo had been having a fight in the water hole, the human combatant having come off the worst. I was happy to find that my new acquaintance did not require aid further than to assist him out of the mire into which he had floundered in endeavouring to get out of the water. As soon as he was safely landed, and I had examined his wounds, which looked worse than they really were, he begged me to oblige him with my rifle to settle the "old man," by whom, he informed me, he had very nearly been drowned, when he had the good fortune to scramble in amongst the reeds; but as he was trembling very much, I thought the safest plan would be to do this part of the business myself, but on casting my eyes in the direction of the enemy, who had scarcely moved from the time of my appearance, I was so struck with the poor animal's helplessness, that more merciful feelings took possession of me, and so giving a loud shout I had the satisfaction of seeing him emerge from the muddy bank and betake himself once more to his native wilds. This mode of proceeding did not meet with the hunter's approval, at which I was not much surprised, on account of the excited state he was in. He informed me he had left his station in the morning for the purpose of hunting kangaroos. He had soon discovered some, and his dogs ran one for some distance, but only his finest dog had returned to him. Proceeding with his sport, notwithstanding his diminished resources, and having no fire-arms, he lighted on the "old man," who had afforded him such recreation, and immediately sent after him the only remaining dog. The animal did not run far, but stopped near the water hole, keeping his canine pursuer at bay. The keen huntsman had done his part too, in attempting to knock down their mutual antagonist, when it suddenly left the dog and attacked the man, and at one bound threw itself and its human enemy into the water hole together, when, said the hunter, he employed himself in pushing my head under water every time I endeavoured to gasp for air or to scramble out. The dog had, it appears, attacked him in the water hole, but to little purpose, being disabled by his wounds, and it was at this juncture that the hunter had succeeded in reaching the reeds: had the animal's attention not been drawn away from the man to the dog, most probably the result would have been fatal.

DRAINING.

BY THE REV. DR. BUCKLAND.

He would advise the farmer of Devon and Dorset to go by railway to Lincolnshire and Norfolk, where the most beneficial changes had been realized over entire counties. There were men now living who could remember when 40 000 acres of land belonging to the late Lord Leicester, in Norfolk, which are now worth £40,000 a-year, were nothing but rabbit warrens and barren heaths. Lord Yarborough had 30,000 acres of land in Lincolnshire, which formerly let for 4s 6d (\$1.8) per acre, and at this low rate ruined almost every farmer who rented it; this same land is now rented at an average of 25s (\$6.25) per acre, by farmers who are all making such large fortunes that many of them keep their carriages. In Norfolk it was the custom of Lord Leicester, when applied to for a farm, to ask the applicant how much capital he could command. "I have farms," he would say, "of all sizes for every amount of capital—from 2,000 down to 200 acres." This was an admirable plan. He was satisfied that one great cause of bad farming was the ambition of tenants in undertaking a larger farm than they could stock and adequately manure. It was not surprising that the farmer could not succeed who, having a capital of £1,000, took a farm which required £2,000.* The learned Professor then referred to the

* The reader must bear in mind that this means the capital requisite for a tenant—not to purchase the land; and this explains to a great extent, the greater productiveness of English farms. They have a great amount of capital—we nothing, comparatively, but the naked land! But all difficulties vanish to men of resolution and thought.

important operation of draining, as the foundation of all good farming. It was useless to put tons of manure on land that was not dry; in that case it would only float upon the surface, for wet clay could not allow it to go down—it was almost entirely thrown away. Draining rendered the land penetrable by water, and enabled the rain to descend freely through it, carrying to the roots those fertilizing elements of carbonic acid and ammonia with which rain-water was always charged. Carbonic acid was continually supplied to the air from chimneys, and from putrefying animal and vegetable substances, also from the breath expired from the lungs of animals, and a hundred other sources; it floated in the atmosphere in a gaseous form, and was brought down again by rain. Falling upon drained land, this rain penetrated its surface, and, as he had just said, carried with it to the roots of plants, two of their greatest elements of fertility.

It was the lauded proprietors' and the farmers' incumbent duty to increase the fertility of the soil, because the soil alone afforded the food which it was our business to provide for ourselves and families. Fifty years ago, Parliament had given a premium for draining to Mr. Elkington; and his system, where it was applicable, had answered the required purpose; but it was not applicable so generally as newer systems, for the publication of which the country was mainly indebted to Mr. Smith, of Deanston. He remembered, when returning from Scotland after visiting Mr. Smith's farm at Deanston four years ago, being taken by Sir Robert Peel into a field of his near Tamworth, which was almost swamped with water, and nearly unproductive. He advised Sir Robert to drain it after the manner of Mr. Smith, which he forthwith did, and the result was in the very first year a splendid crop of turnips, and the second year a crop of barley so luxuriant that the stalks could not support the ears, and fell prostrate to the ground. The expenses were repaid in two years, and this worthless field was now a most profitable piece of land. The Rev. Doctor then mentioned another instance of the effect of drainage near Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, by Lord Hatherton. His lordship had reclaimed a wild tract of 1,500 acres adjoining Cannock Chase, on lands higher than those in East Devon, and had increased its value from 5s. to 25s. per acre. After impressing thus forcibly the importance of draining, as the first step in agricultural improvement, the learned Professor proceeded to remark on the application of manures.

BALL TO LUNATICS.

We have no predilection for Balls; and there are many who conscientiously believe that none but a species of Lunatics attend them. Experience has shown sufficiently that the moral tendency of Balls is not of the highest order. The Ball of which we now speak was got up from higher motives than those which generally set Balls in motion. It was done with the view of rousing the dormant energies of some of the inmates of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. The same means have been tried with good effects in similar institutions in Europe and the United States. It is not the exercise of dancing that is depended on, but the introduction of the inmates to the company of others, the revival of old associations, and the sympathy and meeting of assembled friends.

About fifty of the patients in the most fit state assembled in a large room in the Parliament Buildings, on the evening of Thursday week, at seven o'clock. A large company was invited to meet them. The dancing was kept up with great spirit till half-past nine. The strangers and inmates were mixed up together. We understand that some were roused to take part in the preparations for this occasion, when every other effort had failed, and that the results have been of the most gratifying kind. Still there is a difficulty in getting over the idea of such employment by people in their circumstances, and if the same purpose could be accomplished by a tea party, it appears more desirable. But this raises a question only to be determined by the experience of medical men, and all feelings ought to give way to promote the cure of the patients.

It is gratifying to reflect that this great Provincial Institution is under the control of one so skilful and attentive to his patients, and so beloved by them, as Dr. Telfer is. He has thoroughly studied the subject. What a change from the old system, which never looked beyond confining the poor patients within the limits of their cells.—*Banner.*

ROMAN HOMICIDES.

Some English gentlemen were standing conversing together at the door of a reading-room in the *Piazza di Spagna*. This *Piazza*, I must state, is a somewhat large square, and next to the *Corso*, the principal street, the most frequented and public part of Rome. On one side of it is a flight of stone steps leading up to the *Pinician Hill*, very similar to the steps near the Duke of York's column in our St. James' Park, and a great thoroughfare. The hour was between one and two o'clock in the afternoon. Two men passed these gentlemen, crossed the *Piazza*, and met at the bottom of the steps I have referred to, a young, and apparently respectable female. They stood conversing with her for a few seconds, and then they together drew forth their stilettoes, and, in an instant, plunged them into her. The woman shrieked, ran

forward a few yards, fell, and expired. The men coolly and deliberately wiped their weapons, deposited them in their pockets, and arm in arm walked away. The Englishmen were in a moment with the fallen woman, and called out to the bystanders to secure the men. No heed was taken of their call, and at the expiration of a few minutes, a tradesman in the *Piazza* left his shop, came up to them, and advised them to leave the body. The police, he said, would probably soon be there, and they might be involved in trouble and inconvenience if they were the only persons found near it. Midway up the steps, and consequently within a few yards of this atrocious deed, an armed sentinel was as usual walking. He saw the transaction, never moved from his beat to seize the men or help the woman, and when remonstrated with by the indignant Englishmen, coolly replied that "he had nothing to do with such matters; he was a soldier, and not a policeman." I have still to add, that these murderers were the husband and brother of the slaughtered victim. The act brought no punishment on them, and as far as I could perceive, no odium. The only feeling among their countrymen appeared to be, that they had made a little too much of a trifle. It appeared that the woman had just before been discovered to have frequented a sculptor's studio as a model. The husband forbade this, as well he might, and threatened her with death, if it were persisted in. She was returning from the sculptor's at this time. Her own brother had joined with her husband in waylaying her and taking on her this fearful vengeance. "What a high value must exist in Rome," the reader may say, "for female delicacy and virtue!" Alas! there is no civilised spot perhaps on the face of the earth where these things are more lightly esteemed. What really actuated these young men, I am unable to say. I relate only their atrocious deed. One circumstance more I will mention. Entering one of the churches in Rome, to see some admired painting, I observed a number of stilettoes, or small poignards, stuck like a frame round a large representation of the Virgin, above an altar. I inquired of one of the officers of the church what these meant. His answer was this, "Persons who have been so unfortunate as to kill any one, frequently come to this church to confess, and our priests will never give them absolution till they have delivered up the instrument with which the deed was committed. It is always a part of the penance enjoined on them by the priests." "Am I then to understand that every poignard there has taken away the life of a human being?" I asked. "Certainly," answered he, without one expression of sorrow, shame, or any other emotion. For a moment or two I tried to count them, but after I had counted more than sixty, sick at heart, I turned away.—*Churchman's Monthly Penny Magazine.*

COOKING FOOD FOR CATTLE.

It may seem like idle talk, to most of us, to hear anything said in favour of cooking food for cattle, especially when the market is low, and cattle hardly pay their first cost when fed with as little labour as possible. It may not be amiss, however, and possibly it may be useful to many, to know how other people, who are in the vicinity of a first rate cash paying market, manage to feed cattle and earn money by it. We therefore make an extract or two from Professor Johnstone, in regard to this matter. Hearing that Mr. Marshall, near North Allerton, in England, kept double the stock, upon the same amount of turnips by his system of feeding, he went to see the mode carried into effect. He there saw 200 head of cattle feeding, a portion of which were sold off every week, and others supplied their places. What struck him as remarkable, was the state of absolute rest in which he found the cattle. There was not a single beast upon his legs; no motion was observed, which they were aware was favourable for fattening.

In connection with this subject he got the following information, and, in order that it might be fully understood, he would give it in a tabular form:—

Linseed boiled for three hours in four gallons of water. Cut straw, ten pounds, growing corn, (probably wheat) mixed with water. To be given in two messes, alternately, with two feeds of Swedish turnips.

Now, the mode in which the linseed was boiled was of considerable consequence. In the first place, it was boiled for three hours. The jelly was then poured upon crushed grain and cut straw, much in the same manner in which a man makes mortar, being mixed with a shovel, and allowed to stand for an hour. It was then stirred again, and after the lapse of two hours, it was

given to the cattle in a hot state, and the result was, that if the animals are fed regularly on this kind of food, and turnips, alternately, they remain in a state of extraordinary quiet. They grow exceedingly fond of it. The practice was to give them a meal of the linseed mixture at six in the morning, turnips at ten, another mess of linseed in the afternoon, and turnips in the evening.

Two things were to be observed in regard to this system of feeding; first, that it consisted, in addition to turnips, of a mixture of grain, straw, and linseed, in certain quantities; that it was prepared in a particular way, and given hot; and that the result was double the amount of stock kept upon the same amount of land.—*Agricultural Paper.*

SELECTIONS.

HEATHEN NOTIONS OF CHRISTIANITY.—The following is an extract from the journal of a converted African attached to the mission established under the labors of Rev. Wm. Raymond, in the Mendi country. This heathen convert was sent out to prepare the way for a new missionary station. He writes:—"This morning I called on 'Bu-raw,' (a chief) and said to him, 'If you please, I want you to call the people together, that I may preach to them in the Mendi language about Christ.' He said, 'What you say is very well; you do not care for anything but book-palaver, and God-palaver. But I cannot call the people together to hear you talk God-palaver, because I am a war man. I have gunpowder and cutlass in my hand to fight with. If I call the people together to hear God-palaver to-day, and to-morrow begin to fight and kill, they will laugh at me. If you want to talk God-palaver, you can call your two men, and if I like, I will myself sit down to hear you.'" This shows the utter darkness of heathenism. This benighted chief had not learned that war and fighting were consistent with Christianity, and that in Christian countries clergymen not only call people together to hear God-palaver one day and fight the next, but even pray to God to bless them in the work of butchery. Perhaps he will think better of Christianity when he finds that a profession of its principles does not involve the necessity of throwing away his powder and cutlass.—*Tribune.*

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.—In the southern part of Franklin co., Mississippi, there is a platform or floor composed of hewn stone, neatly polished, some three feet under ground. It is about one hundred and eighty feet long, and eighty feet wide. It extends due north and south, and its surface is perfectly level. The masonry is said to be equal, if not superior, to any work of modern times. The land above it is cultivated; but thirty years ago it was covered with oak and pine trees, measuring from two to three feet in diameter. It is evidently of very remote antiquity, as the Indians who reside in the neighborhood had no knowledge of its existence previous to its recent discovery. Nor is there any tradition among them from which we may form any idea of the object of the work, or of the people who were its builders. There is also a canal and well connected with it, but they have never been explored. A subterranean mansion may throw some light upon its origin.—*Louisville (Ky.) Journal.*

THE CAUSE OF THE WAR.—The debate in Congress bids fair to do good in more than one way. The utterances of the speakers often afford a glimpse into the real object and cause of the war we are now engaged in, quite worthy of the consideration of the free North. Mr. Dargin, from Alabama, a respectable and deliberate speaker, in his speech on the war bill, expressed the prevalent feeling of the South, as follows: "Say to the South," said he, "that they are only fighting to make free territory—that it is only for this that the brave men of Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, are periling their lives, and they will demand the settlement of this question now, preliminary to any further prosecution of the war." That is, if the territories acquired by this war are to be free, the South will demand the instant suppression of the war. There must be no increase of territory, without a corresponding extension of slavery. With this frank disclosure of the prime object of the war, we can readily judge of its propriety and moral beauty, and ascertain the due measure of our zeal in its behalf. Should not such a war be popular with the North.—*Evangelist.*

UNIQUE ROYAL CORRESPONDENCE.—About the year 1843, the King of the Netherlands wrote a friendly letter to the Emperor of Japan, to induce him to depart from the exclusive system pursued for the last three centuries, by extending to all foreign nations the privilege of trading to Nangasaki and the islands of Nippon and Yesso. With immense difficulty the letter was conveyed to the Emperor's own hands; and then two whole years passed without any reply. At length, however, the Emperor has vouchsafed an answer to the King of Holland. He says that he has watched events in China, and noted the gradual breaking through of ancient institutions in that country, which he regards as a consequence of letting the English form establishments on a large scale at Canton. He is willing to leave the Dutch their present privileges; but he will resist to the utmost every extension of foreign intercourse. He winds up by saying—"I have given orders to my officers in consequence, and the future will prove to you that our policy is wiser than that of the Chinese empire."

THE NEW POPE AND THE JEWS.—The inhabitants of the Ghetto

having memorialised the Pope for the enjoyment of equal rights with the other inhabitants of the city, where a father has issue of twelve children from one marriage (in which case he is entitled by an ancient law to special privileges), the liberal-minded Pontiff not only granted the prayer of the petition, but, in a truly humane sense, ordered that relief should be afforded to needy Jews, as to their Christian brethren, from the funds of the *beneficenza*.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

WOMEN IN COAL MINES.—In the course of the investigation into the recent explosion at Chorley, it came out that women disguised in men's attire were in the habit of working in the mines. The coroner remarked on the illegality of the practice, which some of the jury said it was impossible entirely to prevent. One juror said, "The women are fonder of working in the pits than anywhere else, and you cannot keep them out, because there they get good wages."

The Wilderspin tribute fund now amounts to £1300, of which Manchester has contributed upwards of £400. The sum of £2000 has been fixed upon as necessary to accomplish the two-fold object of placing Mr. Wilderspin in circumstances of ease and comfort for the rest of his life, and of ensuring a provision for his family.—*Globe.*

LAMENTABLE STORY.—A letter from Vihiers (Marne-et-Loire) states that a person of that town, named Boucheon, possessing a collection of antiquities, was seized with an apprehension that some one would break in and rob him. He, in consequence, always slept with pistols under his pillow. His daughter, a fine young woman of twenty years of age, happened, a few nights back, before she retired to rest, to enter his room to see if he wanted any thing, and the old man hearing the noise, drew forth one of the pistols and fired. The ball entered his daughter's breast, and killed her on the spot. The father on discovering what he had done, was struck with apoplexy, from the effects of which he died.—*French Paper.*

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.—THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA.—The last ordinary meeting for the year was held on Saturday week, when the chair was taken by Professor Wilson. A communication was read from Lieutenant Newbold, giving an account of his recent visit to the seven Churches of Asia, showing the remarkable coincidence of the present condition of their sites with the prophetic predictions of the Apocalypse. Ephesus, although it gives a Bishop to the Greek Church, all the rest being but suffragans, contains but one hut inhabited by a Christian family. Smyrna, is well known as the most flourishing of all these ancient cities, with a population of 130,700 inhabitants, with three Latin, two Protestant, and five Greek Christian churches, eight Jewish Synagogues, and several Christian schools, although those established by the Protestants have failed. In Pergamus, also, Christianity flourished, there being two Greek and one Christian churches, one of the former being pointed out as the church of the Apocalypse. Thyatira was for a long time unknown, until restored by the Turks at the end of the sixteenth century, though it now contains a Greek and Armenian Church. Saidis is more forlorn than even Ephesus, there being only two poor Greek Christian shopkeepers in the place. Philadelphia, which ranks next in importance to Smyrna, and is the residence of a Greek Bishop, contains twenty-five churches, in twenty of which service is performed, whilst that of the Apocalypse is pointed out. The condition of Laodicea is very melancholy and forlorn, and the site was for a long time unknown, as it has long gone by a different name. From Captain Newbold was also exhibited a fac simile of an Arabian sun dial, with two iron gnomons, one to indicate the hours of the forenoon, and the other of the afternoon; as also a copy of the inscription over the entrance gateway of the Tower of David at Jerusalem. Colonel Sykes exhibited several coins found near Junir, fifty miles north of Poonah, above the Ghauts, bearing the Cave character on one side, and the Greek word for king on the other, which were evidently circulated by Persian Satraps under whose dominion this country was formerly held. Colonel Sykes also gave a description of a figure of Buddha, sixty feet high, cut in the Satpooorah range of hills near Malwa. Mr. Norris made a communication, which stated that, quite unknown to each other, Major Rawlinson at Bagdad, and Dr. Hincks in this country, had simultaneously made a discovery in the orthography of the Cuneiform characters, which was likely much to facilitate our comprehension of that until lately undeciphered language.

THE SUB-MARINE EXPLOSIONS IN THE TYNE.—On Tuesday we mentioned some sub-marine operations which were conducted at the mouth of the river Tyne, on Monday, for the purpose of blowing up the wreck of the Lady Feversham. On Wednesday the operations were resumed. Four charges of 170 lb. each were deposited under the bows of the vessel, and as soon as the necessary preparations were completed, were fired—on this occasion with success. A tremendous report accompanied the explosion, and the vibration reached both shores. An immense column of water was blown to a great height, accompanied by coals and timber; and in a few minutes the whole surface of the harbour was covered with pieces of wreck, including the bowsprit and one of the masts. Deafening shouts rose from both sides of the river, and innumerable boats put off to profit by the occurrence.

A curious experiment with gun-cotton is reported by the *Morning Post*. Thirty pounds of the explosive substance was mixed with a quantity of dung, placed in a barrel, and buried in the grounds of Messrs. Hall, the powder-manufacturers at Faversham. Several days afterwards, an explosion occurred, tearing up the earth over and around the barrel.

NEWS.

On Wednesday last the mail, which had been anxiously expected for some days previously, arrived, bringing nearly a month's intelligence at once: an arrangement which must be very unsatisfactory to all on this side of the Atlantic.

The news are of considerable importance, and may be considered in the following order:—

1st. The scarcity in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland increases with the advance of winter, and though national and private efforts are making on all hands to alleviate the sufferings of the people, they appear to be scarcely adequate to the object. In the former country several deaths from starvation are recorded, and many murders, growing out of the reckless spirit of the suffering peasantry. The drain upon the public purse is going on to the extent of £350,000 a month in the shape of wages for labour, and yet it is said there is not *n.o.e* labour done than on some years when government did not interfere at all, if as much.

2d. The scarcity in Ireland and elsewhere has the effect of draining the large British markets of bread stuffs, and this combined with a short supply, (*i. e.* short of what was expected from the United States), has the effect of rapidly raising prices. The advance on flour, for instance, has been 5s to 6s sterling per barrel, and it has been even greater, in proportion, on Indian Corn, and many other articles. All kinds of provisions are also stiff in price, and gradually advancing. Notwithstanding all these adverse circumstances, however, the money market was easy, business generally prosperous, and prices, especially of cotton and cotton goods, advancing.

The policy of the Whig administration is being farther developed. In view of the disturbed state of Ireland, the ascendancy of the physical force party among the repealers, (O'Connell's influence being, it is said, nearly extinguished), and the extensive arming of the peasantry; there is to be a considerable addition to the army, and the new soldiers are to be enlisted only for ten years, in imitation we believe of the plan generally adopted on the Continent. The threatening appearance of affairs in Ireland had also induced the Cabinet to call parliament together for the 19th of January last, being a fortnight earlier than usual.

The remonstrances of the West India Planters against the diminution of their protection on sugar, has induced government, as a compensation, not only to permit the free importation of labourers from Africa, but to send government steamers to transport them. We fear that, however well intended and carefully guarded, this may prove only a modification of the slave trade.

It is affirmed, on various authorities, that Lord John Russell will bring a national plan of education before the next session of parliament.

Specie is flowing largely from Britain to the United States, in payment of corn and flour. The last steamer brought out, it is said, nearly half a million. The advices by the packet have given great impetus to prices of grain, &c., in the United States and Canada markets. The American telegraphic communication was, however, broken, as it invariably is on the arrival of a mail bringing accounts of a rise, and our friends in Canada west who depended on the American line of telegraph were of course, as well as the Western States, left in ignorance. We trust if ever we have a telegraphic communication through the lower Provinces and Canada, that it will not be abused in the same manner. Flour has gone up to \$7, wheat to \$1.50, and freights to 6s. 9d. sterling per barrel in New York.

There appears to be a serious difference between the Mr. Polk and General Taylor. The latter censures the conduct of the administration, and the administration are desirous of recalling him. This is supposed to be one of the reasons of the strong inclination manifested by the President to have a Lieut. General appointed; a measure which our readers will remember failed. It is thought that the recall of General Taylor after his victories, would insure him the presidency at next election, and yet this is the only alternative, unless the administration choose to have their war managed by one who condemns their conduct.

The Message of General Salas, interim President of Mexico, to the Mexican Congress, breathes a determination to resist American invasion to the last—a determination which seems to be general in Mexico.

The Governor General, Lord Elgin, arrived in town on Friday, and was sworn in on Saturday. His Excellency enjoys good health after his fatiguing journey.

It is reported on the authority of a passenger who crossed the Atlantic with Lord Elgin, that his Excellency expresses himself very freely in favor of three great measures, which would prove of incalculable importance to Canada. First, the free navigation of the river St. Lawrence; second, the consolidation of the customs; and third, the remodelling of the post office after the British plan. Should his Excellency be able to carry these measures, his administration will constitute a marked era in Canadian history.

On Friday a numerous and highly respectable meeting was held in the office of the Montreal Assurance Company to consider the propriety of forming a new Gas Company, and a numerous and influential committee was appointed to canvas the gas consumers of the city for support.

On Thursday last the "Sydenham" and "North America" steam-

boats, heretofore plying between Montreal and Quebec, were sold—the former to D. Torrance, Esq., for £1000—the latter to James Gilmore, Esq., for £3 600.

The admirals of Lord Metcalfe intend to erect a monument to his memory, and it is suggested that it be a house of industry or other charitable institution. Such monuments are, we think, by far the best.

A meeting is to take place on Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock, at the office of the Montreal Assurance Company, St. James Street, to take steps for the formation of a company to provide a Protestant Burial Ground, upon a scale commensurate with the wants of the city. This is an important object.

THE SEA SERPENT.—The Norwegian papers contain a series of statements touching the appearance of the "sea serpent," in the larger fiords. The monster has been seen quite close, in different places and at several different times, by about sixteen persons. The accounts agree in representing the creature as dark in color, about 50 feet long, and of the circumference of a man's head. It is described as showing itself only in calm weather, and as then swimming with its head elevated, in vertical undulations of its body, like a leech.

The English Mail brought in on Wednesday, consisted of fifty-one bags and four boxes of newspapers, and eleven boxes of letters, making a total of seventy-two packages; the average weight of each is 70 lbs., giving a total of 5040 lbs., or 45 cwt. Each bag contains about six hundred newspapers, which, multiplied by fifty-five, gives a total of thirty-three thousand. Each box of letters contains about twenty-six hundred, and, multiplied by the number of boxes, gives a total of twenty-nine thousand letters. While on this subject we must not omit to mention the zeal and activity displayed in the department, in the assortment and distribution of the letters. The revenue derived from the newspapers, viz., 33,000 at 3d., is £68 15s.; and from the letters, reckoning each at 1s. 4d., £1,933, making a total of £2,001 15s. This calculation will be found tolerably correct, as the franks and double letters cancel each other.—Times.

A VOLCANO AT WORK.—We have, last week, recorded a very wonderful convulsion of Lake Ontario. We have this week to mention one equally wonderful, as having taken place in Rice Lake, 12 miles to the north of the town. Last Thursday the Lake was seen to be in great commotion, the ice (18 inches thick) undulating in every direction. Presently it burst with a noise like thunder, and a large iceberg from the centre of the Lake was, in a few minutes, thrown up in a pile to the height of ten feet, in which position it now lies. This is no doubt related to the earthquake which caused the awful commotion in Lake Ontario at Grafton.—Cibourg Star.

Monies on account of People's Magazine and Weekly Journal.

Clarence, J M D, 5s.—Embro, A R, 5, J H, 5s; J S M, 5s; D M, 5s; G G, 5s.—Fergus, J W, 2s 6d.—Ganarogue, C W, 5s; W L, 5s; N R, 5s.—Lloydtown, J G, 2s 6d.—Lacolle, A F, 2s.—Mariposa, G D, 5s.—Metis, C C, 5s.—Milton, J L, 5s.—Phillipsburgh, I J R, 5s.—Quebec, Sergt W, 5s.—Springfield, J W, 30s.—Sorel, R S L H, 5s.—Trois Pistoles, Mr S, 2s 6d.

PRODUCE PRICES CURRENT—MONTREAL, Feb. 1, 1847.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
ASHES, Pots, per cwt			Nominal.		BEEF, Prime Mess,				
Pearls,.....			do.		per brl. 200lbs.	47	6	0	0
FLOUR, Canada Super-					Prime,.....	42	6	0	0
perfine, per brl.					Prime Mess, per				
196 lbs.			Nominal.		tierce, 304lbs.	00	0	0	0
Do. Fine,.....	30	0	32	0	PORK, Mess, per brl.				
Do. Sour,.....			none		200lbs.....	72	6	75	0
Do. Middlings, .			none		Prime Mess.....	55	0	60	0
Indian Meal, 168lb.			none		Prime,.....	50	0	52	6
Oatmeal, brl. 221lb.			Nominal.		Cargo,.....	40	0	0	0
GRAIN, Wheat U.C.					BUTTER, per lb. ...	0	7	0	7 1/2
Best, 60lbs. ...	6	6	0	0	CHEESE, full milk,				
Do. L. C. per min.			Nominal.		100 lbs.....	40	0	50	0
BARLEY, Minot,...			do.		LARD, per lb.....	0	5	0	6
OATS, " " " "			do.,		TALLOW, per lb....	0	6	0	6 1/2
PEASE,.....			do.						

THOS. M. TAYLOR, Broker.

TERMS OF THE MONTREAL WITNESS:

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