

has received considerable attention during the year, we mean the recovery of silver from waste solutions and residues. It would form a very startling calculation, if it could be made with approximate correctness, to estimate the thousands of ounces of precious metal which have been thrown into the sewers, there to form an argentiferous lining, where it is gradually thrown down as sulphides, carbonates, chlorides, and other insoluble salts, or to be swept away into the rivers, and finally to the ocean, and form an immense bath of iodide, bromide and chloride of silver dissolved in sea water. Attention has at length been called to the importance and economy of recovering the silver from this waste. As only two per cent of the silver used in its preparation is found in the finished print, it is but reasonable to suppose that a very large proportion of the original expenditure in silver may, by judicious care in collecting residues and recovering the metal therefrom, be saved from waste.

The applications of photography have been extending, in its use for ornamental purposes of various kinds, for book illustration, &c. In some instances the illustrations given are worthy of the art, but in too many instances we have to regret the use of poor, coarse, hard reproductions, in the place of good photographs.

The discovery of certain pictures, alleged to be photographs, produced during the last century, has excited much attention and much discussion, the details of which have been recorded in our columns. The subject is still open, and will shortly be further debated, when we hope evidence sufficiently definite to warrant a satisfactory decision will be forthcoming. The matter will be duly reported to our readers.

The Copyright Act, intended for the protection of the property of photographers in their own productions, has repeatedly been enforced during the year; and although the decisions in some instances have been far from satisfactory, there can be no doubt that the Act has put a serious check upon piracy.

The rage for card-portraiture appears undiminished, and the quality of the pictures of this class has on the whole become decidedly better. The production of landscapes in large sizes has not been so extensive, the cabinet size of about 7 inches by 4½ inches, introduced by Mr. Wilson, having become a very favorite size.

Abroad photography appears to be progressing, several new societies have been established and journals published, in countries which had been hitherto almost destitute of photographic literature. In this country, societies in the provinces appear to be somewhat on the decline in numbers and activity, but prosperous in London. The literature of photography has received various additions, and the appliances of the art various minor improvements, but not such as require comment here. The exhibitions of the year have been more excellent in contributions than remunerative in result.

The present year opens with every prospect of activity and prosperity in photography, and we wish each of our readers their full share of all the prosperity which is, we hope, awaiting the future of the art.

#### The Value of Dead Horses.

Some people will no doubt be astonished to learn that large fortunes have been made every year since the commencement of the war, out of the dead horses of the Army of the Potomac. The popular idea is that when Rosinante yields up the ghost, she is buried in some field, or left to molder into mother earth in the woods somewhere. Not so. She has made her last charge and gnawed her last fence rail, but there is from \$20 to \$40 in the old animal yet. A contract for the purchase of the dead horses in the Army of the Potomac for the ensuing year, was let a few days ago, to the highest bidder, at \$1 76 per head, delivered at the factory of the contractor. Last year \$60,000 were cleared on the contract, and this year it is thought \$100,000 can be made on it. The animals die at the rate of about fifty per day, at the lowest calculation.

At the contractor's establishment they are thoroughly dissected. First, the shoes are pulled off; they are usually worth fifty cents a set. Then the hoofs are cut off; they bring about two dollars a set. Then comes the caudal appendage, worth half a dollar. Then the hide—I don't know what that sells for. Then the tallow, if it be possible to extract tallow

from the army horses, which I think extremely doubtful, unless they die immediately after entering the service. And last, but not least, the shin-bones are valuable, being convertible into a variety of articles that many believe to be composed of pure ivory, such as cane heads, knife-handles, &c.

#### The Silk Manufacture in Paterson.

The Paterson Daily Press has an interesting article presenting the statistics of the silk manufacture in that city. The silk consumed is chiefly from China or Japan, and the fabrics produced are coat and other linings, flags, plain goods, braids, a combination of silk and mohair, ribbons, neck-ties, sewing twist and floss silks, fringes, embroidery, silks, &c. The Press claims that Paterson is the head-quarters of the silk manufacture in America, and has the prospect of two new first-class establishments, which will make the silk industry of Paterson equal that of all the rest of the United States. The total number of operatives employed is 1,025, exclusive of officers in charge. Three-fourths of the operatives are females, and children of very tender years are also employed. The lowest rate of wages is one dollar a week to learners, and from this point rises to \$4 for females, and \$5 and \$5 50 a week to males—the average wages being \$3 a week. The total amount paid out to operatives per annum is about \$150,000.

#### Versatility of American Soldiers.

There are two mills which supply our troops at Pulas, Penn., both steam flouring and saw mills. They are under the superintendence of Captain W. H. Hill, 81st Ohio, a practical miller and driving business man. In less than a month, during half of which time only one mill was running, he has furnished to Captain Carpenter, Commissary of Subsistence, over 100,000 pounds of flour. This has been done, too, by grinding usually only at night, the saw being run during the day. It is a novel sight to go through these mills. How perfectly at home are our sturdy sergeants, corporals and privates, all covered with dust and flour, as they walk about the mill on their various duties. The ease with which our troops adapt themselves to anything is a matter of surprise to the natives of Tennessee. Yankee labor is so manifestly superior to that which has been employed heretofore, that they actually want the troops to continue to run the mills. The thrift and enterprise displayed by our men make decided impressions on the people in favor of free labor.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SUMMARY.

**THE SCREW VS. PADDLES.**—The R. M. S. *Asia* and the screw steamship *City of Edinburg* recently left the Mersey in company, went into Queenstown together, left again within a few minutes of each other, and continued in company on the western passage for a period of five days, when the wind drawing ahead, the paddle ship shook off the screw steamer, and went on her way rejoicing. It will be seen that the screw ship was a match for her side-wheel consort so long as the wind was favorable, the great spread of canvas of the former in comparison to what the latter could show enabling her to keep way with and even to go ahead of the *Asia* during the day, while the breeze was strong; but as the wind almost invariably lulls after the sun goes down, the screw would always be several miles astern when daylight made its appearance.

**THE HOME JOURNAL.**—One of the most popular family journals published in this country is the *Home Journal*, edited by George P. Morris and N. P. Willis, Esqs. The wide celebrity which this paper has attained is a sufficient proof of its popularity, and we are happy to know that its circulation is increasing most rapidly. Not the least attraction in a mechanical point of view is the elegant new dress with which it challenges public admiration for the coming year. Mr. N. P. Willis devotes his exclusive industry to the *Journal*, and is aided by numerous accomplished contributors.

THE New York *Tribune's* Morris Island correspondent says the rebels have in Charleston harbor two iron-clad steamers, of close imitation to the *New Ironsides* and *Dunderberg*.

THERE were surveyed at Bangor this year 188,122,047 feet of lumber, which was thirty millions over last year, and fifty millions over the year before.

**OIL CAKE.**—This cake, on which cattle are fed, is nothing more than vegetable oil seeds, which have been crushed for manufacturing purposes. The spurious nuts, which grow on the top of the palm-tree, are crushed at Harburgh, on the Elbe, and the oil extracted from them is converted into a toilet soap, which is largely consumed in Germany. The crushed nuts are exported to England as oil cake for cattle. The crushed seeds of the poppy form a valuable oil cake, as it causes that tranquility and sleepiness which conduces to the rapid growth of young cattle. Walnuts are crushed extensively in France to extract a juice for culinary purposes, and the crushed nuts form a useful oil cake, but it gets rancid too rapidly to be of use when exported. Oil cake is also formed from crushed doddor, sesame and cotton seed.

THE best English railway engineers mention that a coal line, to be successful, must be capable of being worked at moderate speed, and without interference with other traffic. This is indispensable. If coal trains of forty or fifty trucks, each containing four or five tons of coals, are to be drawn at high speed, or are to be shunted at every other station to make way for fast trains, the result must be such additions to the cost of working as must preclude the possibility of railway coal traffic being worked in successful competition with the sea coal trade.

**SUGAR CONSUMPTION.**—The total quantity of raw sugar, foreign and domestic, consumed in the United States during 1863, was 284,308 tons, against 432,411 tons in 1862—showing a decrease of 148,103 tons. Cuba supplied the greatest quantity of any other foreign country, the amount being 137,232 tons, received at New York. The quantity of maple sugar raised last year was about 25,000 tons.

A nice sofa is thus described by an exchange:—"It is formed of solid clear blue ice, and is embellished with numerous fine pictures frozen in upon the back, the seat and the arms of the sofa, appearing as if they had grown beneath the surface of the transparent material."

THE metal called Vanadium, discovered in English pig iron, is used in the preparation of writing ink. To a solution of nutgalls is added a minute portion of vanadic acid, and the ink thus obtained is intensely black and indelible by the ordinary agents which destroy the color of the ink in common use.

**CHEAP COAL GAS.**—In the city of Liverpool, Eng., the price of gas has been reduced to about 86 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. It is also stated that this price pays a fair profit to the stockholders.

[It is much cheaper in the "Confederacy," for although it costs \$25 for the same amount, the money is paid in paper which is worth nothing at all.—Eds.]

A Frenchman has patented an invention for pulverizing the refuse of slate and mixing it with some substance, which produces a most durable material and which answers the same purpose as some kinds of our most valuable stone.

Most of the Continental postage stamps which were formerly illustrated with the likenesses of the rulers, have now the arms of the countries substituted instead of the heads, which are no longer of any value.

At 25 minutes to 3 o'clock, Dec. 19, one of the heaviest earthquakes was felt that San Francisco has shivered under for many years. The earthquake was felt with violence at Santa Clara and San J. se.

THE Boston *Traveler* says the Androscoggin mill is the finest cotton mill in the world. It is not the largest, but among the very largest, its capacity being 45,000 spindles, and it gives employment to 1,200 operatives.

**CALICOES.**—The Providence (R. I.) *Journal* states that the transactions in that city during the past year in print cloths were 3,922,800 pieces against 3,616,400 in the previous year, being an increase of 306,400 pieces.

THE daily product of coal at Cannelton, Ky., is 10,200 bushels, which, at fifteen cents per bushel, the price paid, makes \$1,520 per day, or \$474,800 per annum.

AMERICAN oysters have been planted at Havre, France, they being considered superior to the native bivalve.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ has begun a course of lectures on the Glacial Period, at the Smithsonian Institution.