

MISCELLANEOUS SUMMARY.

ILLINOIS COTTON.—The editor of the *Peru Herald* was presented, a few days since, with a sample of this season's cotton, raised in Illinois. The fiber, he says, is as fine as that raised further South. The owner of the plantation from which this sample was taken, has 260 acres under cultivation, which will average nearly one bale per acre, and at the present price per pound, he will make, clear of all expenses, one hundred thousand dollars. From this experiment, who will not say that eventually the southern part of Illinois will yield large quantities of this indispensable agricultural product, and at a profit equalling any other crop. It is found by experiment, this season, that the cost of the cultivation of cotton does not exceed that of corn or other staple agricultural products.

WINE AS MEDICINE.—A celebrated physician, residing at Metz, has written a treatise on the medicinal qualities of wine, in which he states that, considering wine in the point of view of the mineral salts which it contains in large quantity, such as potash, soda, lime, magnesia, iron, manganese, chlorides, sulphates, carbonates, phosphates, the juice of the grape constitutes a real natural mineral liquid as active and even more charged with mineral principles than many justly esteemed spirits.

A NEW NATURAL BRIDGE.—Some of our soldiers, recently discovered on Laurel Fork, in Upshur county, Va., a natural bridge spanning French creek. It measures on the under side fifty-one feet in length and twenty six in breadth, beautifully arched in solid stone. The bed of the creek is strangely carved out of solid stone, and flows swiftly on, "making music of a melancholy sort." The scenery around is wild and picturesque; unbroken forests spread out through hill and dale.

PROF. PEPPER, the inventor of the ghost illusion, is again giving lectures in London. After one of these, "Paganini's Ghost" was introduced in the large theatre, and having first surprised the audience by the spectral character of the illusion, the ghost still further astonished them by his marvelous performance on the violin, which elicited shouts of applause. The spirit of the great Maestro was represented by Mr. Levey, a London violinist.

PERILOUS SERVICE.—The engineers attached to the torpedo boat *Stromboli* are:—First Assistant, John L. Lay, commanding; Second Assistant Engineers, Charles H. Stone, J. B. Chadwick, John Smith; Third Assistant Engineer, Byro S. Heath. These gentlemen have received their commissions with the understanding that they are to perish with the vessel if it become necessary to destroy her, to prevent the enemy from capturing her.

A LARGE number of packages intended for the army arrived at the Washington Post-office with the wrappers destroyed or the addresses so mutilated that they cannot be forwarded, and are therefore necessarily sent to the Dead Letter Office. It is especially suggested that persons sending packages write on a card the full address, and fasten it securely to the contents of the packages, inside the wrapper, and this will secure prompt delivery.

CURIOUS RESULT OF A BROKEN DRIVER.—The freight train which left Nashville early on Friday morning broke one of the driving wheels, and at every revolution broke rails. Some twelve hundred rails between Nashville and Gallatin have been rendered useless. The damage will amount to \$20,000. There must have been an intelligent engineer driving that train.

TO DESTROY BEE MOTHS.—Take a pan of oil or grease at the time the miller is ready to begin to lay its eggs, and insert a wick in the middle of it, and light about dark, set it near your bee-hives, and the millers will be attracted to the light, and being blinded by it, will readily drop in the grease and die.

THE New York Herald, of the 19th ult., alluding to the oil wells of Pennsylvania, says: "before long it will be necessary to sink ponderous shafts to get out the product of the oil mines." It would be interesting to know exactly how ponderous a hole in the ground is.

AN ingenious Parisian has invented a boat in which persons can bathe, the water flows through it,

and moves about at the same time. It is a sort of moving cradle, with a tent roof and sides, and has a kind of hand propeller. This must be a remarkably useful thing.

SPEED OF OUR BLOCKADE STEAMERS.—When the Anglo-rebel blockade breaker *Annie* was recently caught, she was running 19 knots an hour, and her engines were making 200 revolutions per minute, but she was overhauled by the U. S. steamer *Wilderness* in about three-fourths of a mile.

A LIGHT draft Monitor on the Red river ran ashore, and was attacked by infantry and light artillery who were scattered by the fire of her revolving turret, with the loss of their General and five hundred men—not a life lost on board the Monitor.

HOW TO CATCH [HAWKS AND OWLS.]—Erect in the middle of your field a long pole. Set a steel trap upon the top, and the unwary hawk and owl will light directly in the trap. By this means hundreds may be taken in one season.

THE Pittsburg Gazette says the apple crop in Western Pennsylvania is enormous, and though apples command high prices now, it expresses its belief that they will sell at seventy-five cents per barrel before Christmas.

BAND CUTTER.—A correspondent of an exchange wishes inventors to turn their attention to some implement for cutting the bands of grain bundles for the threshing machine, and suggests a revolving wheel attached to the machine to do the desired work, while the grain is in the hands of the feeder.

RAGMEN are with the army of the Potomac buying up and gathering woolen and cotton rags wherever they can find them, and paying for the rags as high as eighteen cents per pound.

AT Rouen, France, a floating iron warehouse has recently been launched. This structure is intended to contain explosive substances or articles liable to take fire spontaneously.

THE largest boat ever designed for western waters is now building at Jeffersonville, Ind. She is 312 feet long, 40 feet beam, and 7½ feet depth of hold. She carries 2,000 tons.

THE profits derived by McCormick from the reaper business, up to the date of Commissioner Holt's decision, are stated by that eminent official to have been \$1,297,915 66.

No less than 300,000 stand of arms and some rifled cannon have been, we are told, shipped from England this year, all for Japanese nobles, and all invoiced as "hardware."

THE objection to raising potatoes is, besides the hard work, that it yields no manure for the farm, and consequently tends to the exhaustion of the fertility of it.

THE total amount of National Bank Currency now in circulation is \$64,529,470. The amount issued last week was \$2,149,080.

THE issues of the London daily papers together amount to 248,000 sheets daily; of all the weeklies together, 2,253,000.

IT is said that a machine, capable of turning ten twenty-inch shot in one hour, is now on exhibition at the Boston Exchange.

How to Have Flowers Double.

A young lady in Central New York wrote to the Farmers' Club, says the *Country Gentleman*, saying that some of her balsam and aster plants produced flowers double, while on the other plants the flowers were all single, and asking if the Club could tell her how to have all her flowers double.

Mr. Pardee said:—"The remedy for this difficulty is simple and effectual. When a plant produces a flower with a single row of petals, it must be inexorably torn up by the roots and trampled in the path. Balsams, pinks, asters, and all that class of plants, are apt to have seeds which will produce plants that will bear single flowers; and if the pollen from these be allowed to fructify the flowers of other plants, the whole bed will be hybridized, and the following year a crop of inferior flowers will be produced. On the other hand, if the plants that bear single flowers are firmly sacrificed, the seed will improve, and frequently very fine and curious flowers will be obtained."

French Tenement Houses.

The question of tenement houses is always interesting. Abroad they are improving the dwellings of workmen. In Paris they have what is called the Cite Ouvriere, in the new street, Rue de Campagne Premiere, leading out of the Rue d'Enfer. This consists of a number of very neat houses, only three stories above the ground floor, with two sets of apartments in each story. They are inhabited by 600 people, and produce a revenue of 45,000 francs, or £1,800, a year. Each set has a sitting room, about 12 feet square, one bedroom only, and a small kitchen. The height of every story is 2½ metres, or nearly 9 feet. Gas and water are laid on, and there are conveniences for stowing wood, &c. Each set lets for 250 francs, or about \$50 per annum. Although deficient in accommodation, they are a great improvement on the garret and cellar system. The rent is paid readily, and the place is always filled. But better by far than these are a large row of dwellings which are now in progress of erection by a very public spirited and enterprising individual, M. Garand, in the Rue Popincourt, Faubourg St. Antoine. They are from the designs of M. Oslin. There are four sets of apartments on each floor, consisting of three rooms and a kitchen, with every convenience. These, though much larger and more commodious than those formerly described, can be let for 300 francs, or \$60 per annum. The principal room is 14 feet by 12 feet, and 9 feet high. On the upper or fifth floor are to be single rooms for bachelors, which are to be let furnished for 20 francs a month, or \$48 per annum.

How do the mass of the inhabitants live in New York? Let facts and figures show. Three-quarters of a million live in tenement houses. Of 116,000 families in the city, only 16,000 have an independent home by themselves. 14,362 families live two in a house, and 4,416 live three in a house. In the 11,964 houses not included above, 71,388 families live, or rather stay; 7 families, or 35 souls, in each house. This is the average; while in the Eleventh Ward, 113 rear houses, or the back ends of lots reached through alleys, contain 1,653 families, 170 to a house. Others have 80, and some 95 persons living in them. In one Ward 29 houses hold 6,449 souls—187 persons in a single house. In one house there are 112 families. In another there are 500 low Irish and German persons huddled together. Packed into a single block are in some cases people enough to make a city of the size of Utica, N. Y. To call these barracks by the name of houses has been well described as follows:—"A structure of rough brick, standing upon a lot of 25 by 100 feet, from four to six stories high, and so divided internally as to contain four families on each floor—each family eating, drinking, sleeping, cooking, washing and fighting in a room eight feet by ten; unless, indeed, the family renting these two rooms takes in another family to board, or sub-lets one room to one or even two other families." Of course, most of the rooms are so dark you can scarcely see in them of a cloudy day; and as to ventilation, water and other closets, or any of the comforts and conveniences of a home, they are not to be thought of. Stench, indecency, gloom, demoralization—these are the attendants. Is it not strange that children and adults can live while crowded into such places? And is it strange that vice and brutality rage rampant?

German Silver for Bearings.

Have any of our mechanics ever tried German silver for hot bearings? It is rather costly, but for chronic hot bearings and on fine work money is hardly an object. From its nature it would seem to be an excellent thing, as it is tough, feels "greasy" to the touch, and has a close grain analogous to Babbitt metal. Here is a formula for making it:—It is composed of 25 parts nickel, 25 zinc, and 50 copper. To roll, it is better to make it 60 copper and 20 zinc. True German silver is 40.4 copper, 31.6 nickel, 28.4 zinc, 2.6 iron. By varying the proportions somewhat a useful composition might be made, which could be sold profitably.

FORCE OF A BOILER EXPLOSION.—By a recent boiler explosion in England a ball weighing 54 pounds was blown 480 yards, and a fireman thrown across a roadway and over the tops of houses to a distance of 220 yards.