



Thanksgiving.

The good old Puritan custom of Thanksgiving has become almost universal in every State, thereby giving evidence that the stream flowing from Plymouth Rock shall yet spread over our whole land. We have indeed cause to be grateful to our Creator for his blessings. He has given us a goodly land, and while the wailings of famine and distress come floating upon every billow from Europe, we have enough and to spare, and let us be thankful to God that while he has given us much to spare he has also put it into our hearts to cast our bread upon the waters. It will return with interest, for "he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." Thanksgiving is generally a happy day, in New England especially—Then separate relatives gather together, and old and young bask in love, happiness and friendship. Nay this simple and beautiful custom, never abandoned, but become closer and closer entwined round the hearts of our people.

Scientific Expedition to the Dead Sea.

A party of Naval Officers under the command of Lieut. W. F. Lynch, will shortly sail from this port, in the U. S. ship Supply to the Mediterranean, for the purpose of making an exploration of the Dead Sea. One great object of the investigation will be to ascertain whether this sea and its shores are of volcanic or non-volcanic origin. The elucidation of this subject is a desideratum to science. Costigan, the only man who has undertaken to circumnavigate this sea, perished in the attempt.—British officers have tried but also failed.

Preserving Butter.

The farmers in the parish of Uddey, in the county of Aberdeen, practice the following method of curing their butter, which gives it a great superiority above that of their neighbors:—

Take two parts of the best common salt, one part of sugar, and one part of saltpetre, head them up together, and blend the whole completely; take one ounce of this composition for sixteen ounces of butter, work it well into a mass, and close it up for use.

The butter cured with this mixture appears of a rich and marrowy consistence, and fine color, and never acquires a brittle hardness, nor tastes salty. Dr. Anderson says, "I have eat butter cured with the above composition, that has kept three years, and it was as sweet as at first." But it must be noted, that butter thus cured requires to stand three weeks or a month before it is to be used; if it be sooner opened, the salts are not sufficiently blended with it; and sometimes the coolness of the nitre will then be perceived, which always totally disappears afterwards.

The above is worthy the attention of every dairy woman.

A Cure for Deafness.

Equal parts of the juice of house-leek, brandy and sweet-oil in a phial, to be hung up and exposed to the sun for a month or more. This dropped into the ear at night, and on wool to be kept in the ear—a sure remedy for deafness.—*Ex.*

Some kinds of deafness only, and which can be cured as well by soap and water, injected by a syringe, a plan which we have seen tried with some success.—*Ed.*

Balloon Mirage.

Mr. Gale, the aeronaut, witnessed a phenomenon during one of his aerial voyages, which is said to be unprecedented to the annals of balloons.—Having become becalmed and perfectly stationary, for a full quarter of an hour, he was preparing to descend, when suddenly he beheld a perfect "counterfeit presentment" of the machine depicted on the clouds to the Southward. This appearance continued for about four minutes, when the balloon descended to a lower region, and the image gradually faded away.

Steam Factory in Hartford.

"A company has been formed in this city," says the Hartford Courant, "with a capital of \$40,000 for the purpose of manufacturing goods from wool or cotton by steam. They are now laying the foundation of their factory in Little Grove street near the corner of Potter. It is to be 140 feet long by 40 wide and 4 stories high.

"We are informed that those who have been engaged in steam factories express the opinion that with the improved machinery steam power can be used with quite as good economy as water—the cost of the former being no more than what is usually paid for water privileges and for heating the buildings."

Electricity Universal.

Electricity is diffused through the entire mass of this globe and of the atmosphere which surrounds it, and it may be regarded as one of the most active elements in all the works of creation.—In every chemical change with which we are acquainted—in the various processes of organic life—in the mechanical movements of particles of matter—in any alteration of state, under the influences of heat or solar radiation, it is by mere contact with solid bodies that electricity is developed. We learn to know it as something fearful from the irresistible power of the lightning and the thunder of its terrible explosion. We marvel at its influence in directing the needle of the mariner, and we are astonished at the rapidity of its flight.

Flax in Canada.

A public meeting was recently held at Quebec, for the purpose of hearing some explanations from Colonel Calvert, in relation to the application of the Ledoyen Fluid to the purposes of Agriculture, and more especially to the cultivation of Flax. The Colonel stated that the soil and climate of Canada were admirably adapted to the cultivation of this useful article of manufacture.

Knowledge is Power.

The following is Sir W. R. Hamilton's theorem of hodographical isochronism: "if two circular hodographs having a common chord, which passes through or tends towards a common centre of force, be cut perpendicularly by a third circle, the times of hodographically describing the intercepted arcs will be equal."

A Science Revived.

Pythagoras invented a means by which everything that he wrote upon a mirror with bean juice became legible in the moon. When Charles V. and Francis I. were waging war with each other to obtain possession of Milan, everything that happened in the day at Milan could, by means of such a mirror, easily be read on the moon a night in Paris.—*Ex.*

It is revived. There is Davis.

The Park Fountain.

A fine granite curb is to be put around the pond of the Park Fountain in this city. Well, it required some move of that nature to adorn the blessed spot celebrated for shady trees and grubs. We hope, however, that the Bowling Green fountain will not be desecrated by the Gothic hand of reform. No, no. What a fine mountain cataract; how like chunks of turtles weeping for the honor of its projector.

Death of the Righteous.

I once met on the sea shore said the Eastern peet, Sadi, a pious man who had been attacked by a tiger, and was horribly mutilated. He was dying and suffering dreadful agonies. Nevertheless his features were calm and serene, and his physical pains seemed to be vanquished by the purity of his soul. "Great God," said he; "I thank thee, that I am only suffering from the fangs of the tiger, and not of remorse."

Milton B. Buffington, a New York and New Haven railroad contractor, has taken leg leave with \$15,000 belonging to sorry workmen without a cent in their pockets. He that oppresses the hireling in his wages shall yet have his reward.

A new factory is going up at Thompsonville, Ct., over 300 feet in length and 60 feet broad. It will contain, when it is finished, 1,500,000 bricks.

Battle With the Hasty Pudding.

Dr. Radcliffe was remarkable for a sudden thought in extraordinary cases: he was once sent for into the country by a gentleman who was dangerously ill of a quinsy. The doctor soon perceived that no application internal or external would be of service; upon which he desired the lady of the house to order the cook to make a large hasty pudding; and when it is done let his own servant bring it up. While the cook was about it, he took the man aside, and instructed him what he was to do. In a short time the man brought up the pudding in great order, and set it on the table, in full view of the patient. "Come, John," said he, "you love hasty pudding: eat some along with me, for I believe you came without your breakfast." Both began with their spoons, but John's spoon going twice to his master's once, the doctor took occasion to quarrel with him, and dabbled a spoonful of hot pudding in his face; John resented it, and threw another at his master. This put the doctor in a passion, and quitting his spoon he took the pudding up in handfuls, and threw it at his man; who battled with him again in the same manner, till they were both in a woful pickle. The patient, who had a full view of the skirmish, was so tickled at the affray, that he burst into a laughter, which broke the quinsy, and cured him. The doctor and his man were well rewarded.

A Mexican Diligence.

A Mexican diligence is similar to an American post coach or mail stage, and a stranger from the United States, taking his seat in one of them, while all else around him is nearly the antipodes of what he has been accustomed to, feels old sensations revive, as he once more finds something that looks like home. No better stages are used anywhere than those employed upon the roads of Mexico, and for the best reason in the world, which is they are all of Troy manufacture, and finished in the best possible style, excelling in neatness, comfort, and durability; the latter quality being particularly necessary in that mountainous region.

The English Postmaster General has addressed a circular to the Post Office authorities of all the countries of Europe, urging them to co-operate with England in introducing a system of uniform penny postage in Europe.—The sooner our own government tries the experiment the better.

The Telegraph line between Troy and Montreal will be completed in about three weeks. Mr. Holmes, the indefatigable superintendent is rushing up the posts like a locomotive.

The Boat business on the Savannah River never was brisker than during the present fall. One company the Georgia has eighteen tow-boats and several lighters well employed.

The Canada papers say that a gold mine has been discovered in Canada, at a distance of 40 miles from Quebec.

A new volcano broke out on the 11th of June, in the island of Tokou, in the Pacific Ocean. Its appearance was preceded by an earthquake.

On the 22nd ult., the Custom House officers in Newry made a seizure of 23 barrels of American flour, in which was found concealed a large quantity of cavendish tobacco.

The imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, has offered a prize of 2000 roubles for the "best History of the Cholera."

The legislature of this state, by an act passed on the 13th inst., have abolished the office of county superintendent of common schools.

A Baptist church was recently dedicated at Galveston, Texas. The dedication service was performed by Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, and Baptist clergymen.

The uniform penny postage has been introduced in the British Colony at Hong Kong.

No one in the world is so often cheated—not even women and princes—as the conscience.

To our British Subscribers.

According to the notice recently given by the Post Master General, all mailable matter destined for the British provinces must be prepaid at the office where mailed, consequently we are obliged to pay 1½ cents postage for each paper that we send to our subscribers in Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. As this is a heavy tax in the quantity that we send each week to all those places, we shall be obliged to take the amount that we have to pay for postage from the amount each subscriber has paid towards the paper, until some arrangement can be made between the two governments, to make the postage free again, which is earnestly looked for, by publishers especially.

Patent Agency.

Applications for Patents made at this office, on the most reasonable terms. Neat drawings, specifications, and engravings of the first character, and cheaper than anywhere else. Notices of new inventions, Agency for the sale of Patent Rights, and all business of that nature, promptly attended to. Those who have patent rights to dispose of will find a good opportunity and field for their sale—such as Horse Power Machines and Waterwheels of every description. The largest circulation in the world for advertisements of inventions, &c.

De Witt's Elevated Railway.

There is to be seen at the Rooms of the American Institute a model and drawing of an elevated railway, the design of R. Varick De Witt, Esq., C. E., of Albany. We visited it during the absence of Mr. De Witt and consequently our ideas regarding its utility are unbiassed by a flowing personal description. It is very simple and could be erected at much less expense than Mr. Randall's. We shall notice this invention in another number.

Banner and Sign Painting.

To those who desire fancy painting in any or every form, we would recommend Ashe, of 133 Fulton street, opposite this office, as an artist that will please the most fastidious.—His portrait and banner painting is superb, and as a professional draughtsman, none excel him. He has been prevailed upon to open a school for the instruction of those who wish to avail themselves of his peculiar art in drawing, and now is an excellent opportunity for all to obtain his instructions. Those who have learned Drawing, find it profitable to attend the class of Professor Ashe. See advertisement.

Union Magazine.

The December number is a splendid one. This magazine has an elevated moral tone, and no person who reads it can but feel better in heart after the perusal. There are two fine steel engravings, "Give me back my child," and "Steps to Ruin," which convey a useful and touching lesson without a single word of explanation. This magazine is edited by Mrs. Kirkland a name well known in American Literature. It is published by Israel Post 140 Nassau Street, this city. The next volume commences on the first of January, and a good opportunity for persons subscribing for a good monthly is now presented.

Chambers' Miscellany.

Berford, & Co. have just issued another number of this entertaining useful and amusing work which they are ready to supply to the trade or sell single. Price 25 cents—each number complete in itself.

The Organ.

This popular "Temperance Journal," is fast gaining favor with the Temperance people in all parts of America.—See prospectus in another column.

A Valuable Farm.

The farm of the late Clayton Earl, Esq., in Delaware, was sold by Messrs Thomas & Son, on Tuesday evening last, for upwards of \$20,000.

The Minister of Commerce has given to three doctors of the faculty of Paris missions to go and study the progress of the cholera in the countries where it is at present raging. These gentlemen, are Drs. Beau, Contour, and Monnoret, and their places of destination are Trebizond, Moscow and Odessa.