



New York Mechanics' Institute.

This old and excellent institution commenced its annual course of Lectures in the Hall, No. 347 Broadway, last Monday evening.—Professor Hume delivered the introductory lecture of a course on the “application of chemistry to the arts and sciences.” Mr. H. although but a young man, is a recondite chemist, a chaste and agreeable lecturer. The audience on Monday evening was very respectable and no doubt but the lectures of the Institute will be well attended this winter, as the course is a splendid one. There is not a young mechanic or artisan in our city, who desires to be esteemed as an intelligent man, but should be a member of this Institute.

Home Manufacture of Gas.

Many of the proprietors of our hotels and public buildings contemplate manufacturing their own gas. The new Broadway Theatre is lighted with gas made on the premises and a small apparatus in the basement furnishes enough for the whole establishment. Brooklyn surpasses this city in this kind of enterprise. We hope yet to see all our private buildings lighted economically with gas and heated economically upon some general plan. Every block of houses that is to be built hereafter, should be constructed so as to embrace Count Rumford's principle in the economical radiation of heat.

Gutta Percha.

We have seen some of this strange gum, which we have formerly described in a number of articles, made into most excellent soles for boots and shoes. It is also the best substance yet discovered for bands to drive machinery. Mr. Eugene Dupuy, Pharmacist, No. 609 Broadway, has a number of fine specimens of it in his possession, which he is manufacturing into articles of Surgery. We believe that this substance is yet destined to effect an entire revolution in some of the arts.

Discovery of Platinum in France.

A late Paris paper says: “M. Gueymard has just informed the General Council of Isere that he has discovered a vein of platinum in the metamorphic district of the valley of Ecarc, which he hopes to work to advantage. Hitherto this precious metal, which combines with incomparable hardness the lustre of gold and silver, has only been met with in the Ural Mountains, and its scarcity has always rendered the price very exorbitant.”

John Fitch.

While John Fitch, the man celebrated in his connection with the steamboat, was confined on Prison Island, he made himself a set of tools with scarcely any means at his command. His tools were an axe, hand-saw, chisel, iron wood-wedge, shoemaker's hammer, fore-plane, augur, grindstone, jack-knife blade and some old hoop iron. With these tools he constructed nine wooden time-pieces, three hundred pairs of brass sleeve-buttons, eighty pairs of silver ones, repaired buttons, and engraved names. John Fitch was the most ingenious and contriving man that ever lived.

Patent Buttons.

Henry Clay, not of Kentucky, but of Birmingham, England, a japanner, has taken out a patent for making buttons of dyed materials which have never been used for this purpose, such as mohair and worsted, and which are said to be very ornamental, thus enforcing with modern ingenuity the old bye word, “Birmingham for buttons.”

West India League.

The West India Islands are about forming a grand league which will result, unless Britain acts wisely, in the separation of those islands from the mother country. Old colonies will not always be content to dangle at the apron strings of old patrician maids and younger sons of peers, who look upon foreign estates with the same feelings as they do upon their hunters and hounds.

Singing Mouse.

A gentleman living in George Street, had, for several nights, heard an unusual sound in his bedroom, first in one part and then in another, resembling to his fancy the notes of a distant mocking-bird. The strangeness of the sound created a suspicious fear in the family and the gentleman determined to solve the mystery, if possible. Night before last the sound was repeated, in varied notes of remarkable sweetness—like the canary, the quail, and other of the feathered songsters. He traced it to the cupboard, and upon opening the door, found a little mouse squatting in one corner, with his throat widely expanded in the vocal effort. The Gentleman with some difficulty caught the little warbling quadruped, and put it into a cage. It frequently chirps in its prison, but more feebly than when it was free. It may be heard of by those who enquire at Scovill's drug store, corner of Fifth and Race.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

Jews at Odessa.

The Russian government has just created at Odessa a school for Karaite Jews, a sect which admits only the written law, and which differs from the rest of the Jews, called by them Rabbinites, who acknowledge the Talmud and the oral law. In the southern provinces of Russia there are a great many Karaites. The school was opened on the 15th of September. Religion, the Hebrew language, the Russian and French languages, arithmetic, book keeping, the knowledge of commercial law and penmanship are taught in this school.

Tobacco.

In Ohio, the quantity raised this season is supposed to be not over 6,000 or 8,000 hhd's, against 20,000 hogsheads last year. A good deal of last year's crop will be kept at home on account of the break in the Pennsylvania canal, and will be sent to market next summer with the new.

The Cotton Crop.

There are various reports from different districts of the Southern States in relation to this year's cotton crop. The quantity raised in all probability will fall somewhat short of the yield of 1846.

Inflated Horse Collar.

A horse collar has been invented in England which must be regarded as a very great improvement. It contains a tube of india-rubber, or other suitable substance, inflated with air like a life preserver.

Prying.

Don't pry into the secret affairs of others. It is none of your business how your neighbor gets along, and what his income or expectations may be, unless his arrangements affect you. What right have you to say a word or protrude your advice. It is no mark of good taste, good breeding, or good manners to pry into the affairs of other people. Remember this.

Adulteration of Flour.

The *London Journal of Arts* for the present month has translated from the “*Bulletin de la Societe d'Encouragement*,” a scientific description of sure and certain means of detecting the adulteration of Wheat Flour, communicated to the society for the encouragement of National Industry, Paris, by M. Bonny, and reported by M. Bussy. It fills 6 pages of the Journal, and embraces adulterations by the fucula of potatoes, by leguminous flour, such as pease, haricot beans, vetches or horse-beans, &c., Indian corn, rice, buck-wheat and linseed.

Damages for enticing Workmen away.

In the Maine Circuit Court of the United States, in the case of Levi Brown vs. Wellington Burnett, the jury returned a verdict of \$300 for the plaintiff. The defendant was charged with having enticed away two workmen who were under a written contract to work for the plaintiff for two years.

An American China Manufactory.

We learn that a gentleman named Ridgeway, from Staffordshire Eng. has established a manufactory of china and queensware on the Big Sandy River, in Virginia, within a mile and a half of the Ohio.

An Editor “Corned.”

John Means, editor of the “Wayne County Democrat” at Wooster in this state, has spliced himself at last, to Miss Kate Corn. As small means will be gradually added to his store, we hope he will never refuse to acknowledge the Corn.—*Cincinnati Signal*.

Capt. Forbes has received a testimonial from the inhabitants of the city and county of Cork, in the shape of a large and massy salver of solid silver, measuring thirty inches in length by twenty in breadth, richly and beautifully chased with a heavy border of ornamental work; the whole being an elegantly finished piece of workmanship, and valued at £150.

Distinguished Strangers.

A royal Bengal tiger and a rhinoceros, arrived recently in this city in the bark Talisman from Calcutta.

Sausages.

The best proportions are 3 lbs. salt, 10 oz. sage, 10 oz. pepper, to every 100 lbs. chopped meat.

The Palace of the Duke of Newcastle, cost the enormous sum of \$300,000; the chimney pieces alone \$72,000. How many poor wretches have starved in their frightful destitution that this one man may live in luxury and magnificence. He has an estate of 20 miles in length, while thousands do not own land enough to furnish them with a grave.

Statistical evidence, ranging over a period of thirty years, and collected from ninety-six shipping ports European and American, does show that the average price of wheat in these countries taking one with the other, is 32s 6d per quarter. The same evidence proves that the average freightage to this country is about 12s. per quarter, but this will be reduced when the navigation laws come about.—*Buff. Commercial*.

The rumour gains credence in circles of highest authority of the symptoms of insanity having been decidedly manifested by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. The well known liability of her family to this cruel malady is strengthening the probability of the report.

A yankee, on visiting the menagerie for the first time, while stalking round the pavillion, suddenly came on the elephant; whereupon he turned to the keeper, and said, with surprise: “Thunder and lightning” mister what darned citter have ye go here with a tail on both ends?

I have heard a good story of our old friend Charles Fox. When his house was on fire he found all effort to save it useless, and being a good draughtsman, he went up the next hill to make a drawing of the fire; the best instance of philosophy I ever heard of.—*Southey*.

The New England Society of Brooklyn, N. Y., formed of New Englanders and their descendants in that city, will hold a celebration on the 22d of the present month, the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. An oration will be delivered on the occasion and a festival held to which ladies will be invited.

A journalist has discovered that, all things considered, railways are very slow, and behind the age. He says, that when travelling he blushes to think the message on telegraph flies like lightning, while he is lazily creeping on at only 30 or 40 miles an hour.

The Germantown Gazette, a valuable exchange takes our correction straightforward and with honest good nature. It will be observed that most of our extracts are condensed and pruned of all extraneous language.

The ship Ontario arrived at Glasgow recently from Quebec, having made the passage in fifteen days.

The two Government snag-boats Samson and Sevier, built at our city in 1843, at a cost of 60 or 70,000 dollars were sold at Paducah, on the first inst., for the aggregate sum of \$3,643.

The Lachine Railroad, Canada, was opened to the public on Friday last.

Corn Crop of the United States.

The corn crop of this year is estimated at 600,000,000 bushels; in 1845, it was 417,897,000 bushels. The yearly exports from 1791 to 1819, several times arose above a million bushels, sometimes over two millions, but from 1819 to 1845, they did not in any one year amount to a million. In 1846, the exports were 1,825,068 bushels corn, and 298,786 bbls. corn meal. In 1847, the exports have arisen to the enormous quantity of 17,272,815 bushels corn, and 944,059 bbls. corn meal.

Hint to Wine Drinkers.

On Friday 103 hogsheads of adulterated wine were brought out from the entrepot of Paris, and their contents spilt in the Seine. “Immediately after this operation (says an eye-witness) the surface of the river was covered to the distance of 200 yards with an innumerable quantity of fishes, poisoned by that deleterious liquid.”—*Foreign Ex.*

We learn from the Pottsville “Journal,” that on Thursday last an explosion of carbonic acid gas occurred in the mines of Messrs. Mann and Williams, by which Wm. Beadle, and James Murray were killed.

The arrangements between the Government and Mr. E. K. Collins for a line of American steamers between New York and Liverpool was completed on Monday by the exchange of contracts. The building of the steamers will now be commenced without delay.

The town of Columbus, Indiana, was destroyed by fire on the 29th ult. by fire. It was a place containing about six hundred inhabitants.

There are forty-five newspapers published in the city of Boston. In this city their name is legion.

M. Cape de Feuillide, who was sent to Ireland by Count Mole to write the history of that country, has now received a similar historical mission to the United States of America.

In the year 1839, the French mercantile navy numbered 15,000 ships, but they are now reduced to 13,679, and of these 8,900 measure less than 30 tons.

A man very much intoxicated was sent to “durance vile.” “Why didn't you bail him out?” asked a bystander. “Bail him out!” exclaimed the other, “you couldn't pump him out.”

Some of the insurance companies in England have recently introduced a by-law, prohibiting parties insuring to have more than a gross of lucifer matches in their houses.

We are indebted to Prof. C. F. Deems of the N. C. University, for a copy of his address before the Literary Societies of Randolph, Macon College.

The first striking clock was made in Arabia, where the arithmetical figures were invented, and the first Encyclopaedia was prepared.

The U. S. schooner Scorpion, returned from a cruise, having secured the Spanish topsail schooner which she had been sent to capture.

The U. S. Propeller, Buchanan has been, wrecked on Lobas Island, All on board were saved.

“Old maids are the real gold of womankind” says a modern saw, to which an old bachelor rejoins, “and the young maids are the real diamonds.”

Three thousand dollars have been raised in Pittsburg for the Washington Monument. Upwards of half this amount was taken by the working-men of the rolling-mills. These are men of big hearts.

Pope Pius has issued a declaration against the New Irish Colleges. The reason given is that the professors are not exclusively of the Romish Church.

Twelve thousand operatives are out of employment in Manchester. They are all connected with the Cotton manufacturing.

The Schenectady Reflector of the 19th ult., was very generous in the way of credit.