



#### Singular and Terrible Explosion.

On the 13th ult., the sloop of war, *Constellation*, belonging to Hayti, blew up in the harbor of Port au Prince. The event occurred at about 2 P. M. in the harbor, where the sloop was lying at anchor. The day was calm with no signs of a thunderstorm, and it is impossible to attribute the explosion to a stroke of lightning. There had also been no recent firing on board of the sloop, to give occasion for opening the gun-room, which is said to have been most carefully secured against fire; and the keys of the powder magazine were in the keeping of the captain who at the time was on shore. Only seven persons out of four hundred were saved. The vessel had on board besides her officers and crew, a large number of prisoners, some one of whom was supposed to have committed the act of firing the magazine.

#### No Learning without Preparation.

No man can learn when he has not preparation for learning, however near to his eyes is the object. A chemist may tell his most precious secrets to a carpenter, and he shall never be the wiser; the secrets he would not utter to a chemist for an estate. God screens us evermore from premature ideas. Our eyes are holden that we cannot see things that stare us in the face, until the hour arrives that the mind is ripened; then we behold them, and the time when we saw them not, is like a dream.—*Emerson*.

#### New and Useful Invention.

The Peterboro, N. Y. Messenger says that Dr. Jewett has planned a good thing for blowing logs. It is a screw with a hole just large enough for the fire to communicate with the powder, through the middle. This being screwed into the hole after the powder is placed, confines it so closely that there is no escape. Every charge splits its log."

This invention is not entirely new. We knew one of the same kind, nearly, to have been in existence five years ago.

#### A Southern Cotton Factory.

In the De Kalb, S. C. cotton factory there 1680 spindles, 20 30 inch carding engines, 40 looms, and it manufactures about 10,000 yards of osnaburgs and 2000 pounds yarn per week. It employs upwards of ninety hands, and pays between \$800 and \$900 a month for wages.—About one half the operatives are black, and partly owned by the establishment. The cotton consumed in a month amounts to 80 bales.

#### Death from a Rattlesnake Bite.

On the evening of the 9th inst. Dr. Wainright of this city, lost his life by the bite of a rattlesnake, which had been sent him as a present. So rapid was the effect of the poison and so inveterate, that although he had the part of his hand where the bite was inflicted almost instantly cut out, yet he died in seven hours after the occurrence.

#### Heiden's Dollar Magazine.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of this new monthly, in another column. From the list of contributors which are to be employed on this work, and the enterprising habits of the publisher, we predict for it a wide circulation.

#### Union Magazine.

This is the most splendid periodical published in America, has made its appearance for January and is a superb number.

It commences a new volume with the new year and we predict for it a wider circulation, than any monthly before has ever attained. Its engravings are entirely original, being designed expressly for the work, and no publication either American or foreign can boast of a more talented list of contributors, than can the publishers of the "Union."

For sale by all the periodical dealers.

The Canadian Parliament has been dissolved by Lord Elgin. A new election will soon take place.

#### Fire Engine Trial.

A trial of superiority lately took place at St. Louis, Mo., between the St. Louis engine, built in Boston, the Union, built in Philadelphia, and the Phoenix, built in St. Louis. The Union was decided to be the victor. The estimate of superiority, however, was not based on a right method of calculation. The only true way to test the capacity of a fire engine, is by the quantity of water it throws in a given number of strokes, and the height to which it can force a stream of a certain diameter.

#### Memory.

There is good reason for believing that the spirit when leaving its house of clay, the memory of all its past thoughts and the acts of all the past life, will be revived. How unspeakably important then, that no thought be entertained, nor act committed, inconsistent with the requisitions of the High and Holy One.—*Channing*.

#### Terrific Leap.

A boy attached to the apartment above our office, fell down the trap to the basement five stories, on last Friday evening. He was somewhat stunned by the fall, but he had no sooner recovered than he blasphemed the name of God, as we heard him doing not one minute before he fell.

#### Accident.

On Friday last at Mr. Hovey's Pyrotechnical establishment, Mass. a small quantity of composition for "stars" accidentally ignited by which three workmen were injured, and one of whom named Tainter has since died. Of the other two, Bailey and Sanderson, the latter is not seriously injured. The accident was probably occasioned by the sparks being driven down the funnel of the stove by high wind. One wooden building was nearly destroyed.

#### Dreadful Shipwreck.

One of the most disastrous shipwrecks that ever occurred was that of the Stephen Whitney, a splendid New York Packet, bound to Liverpool. She was wrecked on the coast of Ireland on the 10th of October last, and ninety-one perished. The ship went to pieces in ten minutes after she struck.

#### A Giant Ship.

The largest ship ever built in the United States, has been recently finished at Portsmouth, N. H. at a cost of 100,000 dollars, for Messrs. D. & A. Kingsland, of this city and intended to run as a packet between here and Liverpool. She is a 3 decker, 1800 tons capacity, carpenter's measurement—that is about 300 tons more than any merchant vessel heretofore built in the United States. Her length on deck, is 186 feet, with 41 feet beam, and 34 feet 6 inches hold. The knees, between decks, are of white oak, and mould 32 inches in the throat, and 11 1-2 inches in the side. She is named the Columbus.

#### Death of Chancellor Kent.

The able and learned Ex-Chancellor Kent, died in this city on Monday, the 13th inst.—His remains were carried to the grave attended by a most imposing procession of all classes.

#### Coolness.

Frederick the Great, after a very terrible engagement asked his officers—"Who behaved the most intrepidly during the engagement?" The preference was given to himself. "You are all mistaken," replied the King, "the boldest fellow was a fifer, whom I passed twenty times during the contest, and he did not vary a note during the whole time."

#### Old Sciences.

A four wheeled carriage with brown ornaments and iron wheels, has been recently discovered in a three story house dug out at Pompeii.

It is our opinion that when the Roman Empire was overthrown by the Goths, that the Romans were nearly as far advanced in civilization as we are at the present moment.

"Reveling in the halls of the Montezumas," has been discovered by some of the volunteers to be sleeping on the top of a hard table with one blanket under and another over them. They feelingly declare that the fleas and mosquitoes have all the "fun" of the thing.

#### Improved Lock.

Mr. S. L. Chase, of Lockport, N. Y. has received letters patent for a new combination lock for safes, &c. There are an infinite number of changes on it and the manner in which they are arranged prevents the possibility of it ever being unlocked by a stranger who keeps no record of its change of combination. There is one thing also which renders it peculiarly valuable, to wit the arrangement of the changing couplings. There is no pressure can be exerted on them and thus it cannot be picked, an important consideration and justly pronounced so, by able lockmakers. This invention of Mr. Chase will no doubt receive that public attention which it deserves. We have seen the lock and can use no other terms than those of praise, regarding its qualities.

#### Grand Literary Entertainment.

On Thursday evening, the 23d of this month there will be a grand literary feast given by the Washington Literary and Scientific Association, in the Broadway Tabernacle. The proceeds of the entertainment are for the benefit of the Washington Monument Association and the relief of the suffering poor of Ireland.

The Hon. Robert H. Morris will preside on the occasion and deliver an address. Professor Whitney will give delineations of the styles of great American orators. William Wallace, Esq. will deliver an oration. The Governor Island Band will perform some splendid pieces. A number of other exercises also will vary the evening's entertainment, which undoubtedly will be one of the richest treats of the season to those who can appreciate the refined and noble. Major Gen. Gaines and Colonel Burnett and a number of officers just returned from Mexico, are to be present. The tickets are only 25 cents. Exercises to commence at 7 o'clock P. M. There will no doubt be a perfect rush to enjoy this intellectual, patriotic and generous entertainment.

#### Fine Indian Painting.

Captain Eastman of Fort Snelling, has lately executed a painting of a group collected round an Indian funeral scaffold, which for life and finish is said to be a perfect gem of the art. A man must be born a painter.

#### Guessing for Hogs.

At Jamaica, L. I., on Wednesday last, two large hogs were guessed for—50 cents a guess. The fortunate guesser had his choice of the two, the next best guesser taking his leavings. This is a new item in Long Island sports.

Mr. Judd, a clergyman at Augusta, Me., on Thanksgiving day, instead of reading the Governor's Proclamation and preaching a Thanksgiving sermon, read the whole book of Lamentations.

It is said that one great English Railway contractor, has more than £7,000,000 of contracts incomplete at this moment; and though 20,000 workmen have recently been discharged from his employ, he yet pays \$50,000 a week in wages alone.

A paper was read before the New York Historical Society on Monday, 6th inst., by Albert Gallatin wherein he stated that E. B. Whitney inventor of the Cotton Gin, had prolonged slavery in the United States. Many have quite the contrary opinion, and that but for this inventor the slave trade itself would never have been declared piracy.

A duel was fought at Newark, N. J. on last Thursday by Mr. Valentine a lawyer and Mr. H. W. Herbert a gentleman of the literati. The best way of settling these disputes is to box it out and then there is nothing lost but claret, and there is nothing left but black eyes and fools noses.

A number of Officers of the New York regiment have returned to this city from Mexico. Some walk on crutches and all bear the marks of "War's rude sport."

We have been shown a copy of No. 2, of Eubank's Hydraulic's and without any inducements to give it a puff, we sincerely recommend it to every mechanic.

One gentleman in Licking county, Ohio. it is stated, makes annually \$100,000 worth of cheese.

I never knew a personal braggart, who was not either a coward, knave or fool.—*Johnson*.  
Egotists are the most ignorant of men.—*Lester*.

Every profession in itself and every trade requireth a lifetime to be master of. It is an old and a trite saying, "Jack of all trades and master of none." He that would be eminent in one thing must pursue it with enthusiasm and never tire.—*Bentham*.

By recent West India papers we learn that the Lieut Governor had left for England, and that a Mr. James Lang Bremmer, a colored gentleman, has assumed the reins of government. It is said that he is the first of his race who has had the honor of representing the Sovereign as the Governor of a British Colony.

The Chillicothe Advertiser will find by looking on the last page of No. 41, vol. 2 Scientific American, that the paper to which it gives credit for the article "Curiosities of Art," is not the parent of it. It was taken from our columns, along with most of the other scientific matter which appears in that paper.

Old Rough and Ready was received in New Orleans on the third inst., in the most magnificent manner. On the next day the Legislature of Louisiana presented him with a most splendid sword. He is now with his family enjoying for a brief space domestic repose.

The citizens of Ithaca, Seneca County, N. Y. have remonstrated against the Rochester and Auburn Rail Road Company making an embankment across the lake, which would cause the water to overflow the low grounds in the vicinity.

Prof. Agassiz classifies his marine animals by the scales and a number of papers have actually declared that his whole system was built upon this theory leaving out the whole tribe of the unscaled.

When you are addressing blockheads, be as grandiloquent as possible, for the less such people understand the more profound they think you are. In a vacuum, recollect, feathers fall as fast as guineas.

The widow of Napoleon, her for whom he renounced his beloved Josephine, has got married again. Her husband is Count Bombelles one of her ministers.

A Railroad is to be constructed at Capetown, South Africa, for a distance of 7 miles. The expense is estimated to be 24,000 dollars per mile.

Mr. Walker Secretary of the Treasury recommends in his report that laborers for wages in all industrial enterprise and pursuits should get a share in the profits realized therefrom in addition to their own stipulated weekly wages.

Messrs. Rae and Deese two officers of the Hudson Bay Company, have fully settled the question of a North West passage, and also of the improbability of its ever being navigated.

The officers of the New York Regiments, who have just returned from Mexico, held a levee on Wednesday in the Governor's Room, City Hall.

A man's temperature is generally about 98 Fahrenheit. A scientific friend observes, to increase his temperature, all that is necessary is to pull his nose.

It is said that when the road to the City of Mexico is opened, upwards of twenty millions of dollars worth of merchandise will be thrown into the interior of Mexico.

The Cherokee Legislature have voted a pension of \$300 per annum to the widow of George Guess, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet.

The statue of Dr. Chalmers for the new college at Edinburgh will cost \$1500, of which \$1000 is already raised.

An Odd Fellows Lodge has been opened in the city of Mexico.

New Orleans has decreased in population 17,000 since 1846.