



Natural Bridge in Illinois.

In Jackson county, Illinois, on the south side of Muddy River, near Murfreesborough, there is a natural bridge which is something of a curiosity. It is thrown across the bed of the rivulet from buttresses of nearly equal size, worn out of the solid rock by the water as smoothly as if cut by a chisel. The bridge is a solid block of limestone, eighty four feet in the span of the arch from buttress to buttress, twenty two feet above the bed of the stream, fifteen feet wide, seven feet thick in the centre, and about twelve feet thick at the ends resting on the two buttresses. The appearance of the whole is that of a modern stone bridge, except that the north end is a little lower and narrower than the other, though the inclination is not more than two and a half feet in its length on the top. This is one hundred and twenty feet long, and firmly and conveniently set into the opposite banks, and over which is a good road for horses. The bridge is only about forty feet from a ledge of rocks running parallel to its base, and both looked upon together reminds one of some ancient castle with its drawbridge. Large oaks and poplars are growing on the bridge and on the top of the ledge, while a deep tangled undergrowth gives to the whole scene an air of romance and mystery. The country is volcanic; the bed of the stream is several hundred feet above the bed of the Mississippi, and as the appearance of the river is lost at the base of the ledge, it is evident that once a river cut out and ran under that bridge, and in a shock of nature that ledge was thrown up to intercept its channel, while the whole country, being elevated by the earthquake, took its present astonishing condition.

#### Wild Geese, Ducks, &c.

The Sandusky Clarion, says that the annual slaughter of these unfortunate bipeds has commenced and has been going on at the head of the bay for some two or three weeks. Scarce a day passes that boat loads of them are not brought into our market.

There is probably no place in the country where greater numbers of these birds can be found, or in greater variety; affording a rich field as well for the ornithologist as the sportsman. The canvass back, the finest of game birds, are killed there, sometimes in great numbers. They are, however, principally confined to particular and favorite localities, and do not make their appearance much, until a little later in the season, or until the weather is rather colder than at present. A swan was killed in the Cove, by one of our old sportsmen last week.

#### New Iron Company.

The Trenton State Gazette, says that an application will be made to the Legislature of New Jersey, at its next session, for an act to incorporate a new company, to be called the Schooley's Mountain Iron Company, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of mining and smelting iron and other ores and minerals in the county of Mercer.

#### Sugar.

Eight planters on the Brazos, in Texas, will make 2,800 hogsheads of sugar. Texas, will not, after all, be so bad a bargain, if she goes on at this rate. We think her lands capable of raising all the sugar this country can consume.

#### Earthquake.

There has been a great earthquake at Valparaiso, South America. It occurred on the 8th October, and lasted twenty six minutes.—The shocks were terrific. The Valparaiso papers state that the whole country around for ten thousand square miles, heaved like the waves of the sea.

We tender our thanks to Francis O. Dorr, Esq., Wall street, for valuable information regarding foreign Patent Laws, which we shall commence publishing next week.

#### New Steamboat.

We learn from the Bangor Mercury that the Directors of the Penobscot Steam Navigation company, have already contracted for the building of a first class steamer—the first class in build and materials of hull and engine and first class in regard to speed. The hull is to be built by Messrs. Bishop and Simpson, of New York. The hull is to be 220 feet in length—32 feet beam—and 11 feet depth of hold. The engine is to be built by Joseph E. Coffee of New York, and of the West Point Works—and will be of 11 feet stroke, and 54 inch cylinder. The boat is to be in readiness to commence her trips to Portland, to connect with the Rail Road to Boston, in May next; and it is said that she will cost about 80,000 dollars. Capt. S. H. Howes will command her.

#### Careless Apothecary.

It is dangerous to get prescriptions made up at druggist's stores, where careless boys or other ignorant persons are left in charge. What with the Latin of the Physician and on the pots and bottles, and the want of it in the deputy apothecary, there is often real danger. The Baltimore Patriot states a case in which a family physician prescribed for a sick child in that city—a careless druggist's shop-boy delivered different medicines from those ordered and the child died.

#### Arrowroot.

From a statistical table recently published of the productions of Bermuda, the value of Arrow-root is stated at not less than \$20,000 annually. More than two thirds are used in great Britain. Yet from the prejudice of some and the cupidity of others, it would appear that more than five times the whole production of Bermuda is consumed in the United States.

#### Steamer Ontario.

The new boat, for lake Ontario has cost \$0-000 dollars, and is now in the dock at Oswego receiving her finish. She is 900 tons burden, very handsome and her machinery and engine are from the works of Messrs. Secor of this city.

#### Atmospheric Engines.

The name given to the first steam engines was atmospheric, because the piston was raised by steam, and the steam being condensed in the cylinder, a vacuum was formed and the piston descended by the pressure of the atmosphere, which is about fifteen pounds on every square inch of surface.

#### More Coal.

It is said that recent investigations have led to the belief that there is a coal bed in one of the mountains in Ossipee, New Hampshire. If this is true it will be a great benefit to the Montreal and Cochecho Railroad.

#### Valuable Manuscript Discovery.

It is reported that M. Vattemare has made some valuable discoveries in the office of the Secretary of State. A mass of old papers were put into his possession to wrap up the works that were presented to him by the State, and among them, he is said to have found the original Charter of Trinity Church New-York, granted by Queen Anne, and other valuable manuscripts that Mr. Broadhead was sent to Europe to enquire after.

#### A Human Tiger.

We noticed in an English paper that a jealous wife recently tied her husband to the bed while he slept and poured boiling hot water over him.

#### Dividend.

It is said that the Beaver Pond Canal Co. on L. I., have declared a dividend of one porgie on each share of the capital stock of the Company, payable in eels.

#### Sore Nose.

A man of science up among the Knickerbockers, prescribes the following cure for a bruised or irritated nasal appendage: Take half a pound of gum guaiacum, half a pint of cowhage and half a gallon of tar—simmer over a slow fire until effervescence ensues. Apply to the afflicted part with a whitewash brush. In about an hour the sore will peel clean off—nose and all.

#### Adulteration of Flour.

A flour dealer in Leeds, England, was detected recently in a shameful and dangerous adulteration of flour; and it appeared that on examination of his premises he was engaged extensively in the villainous practice. A widow and five children were taken ill, with unequivocal symptoms of having eaten something deleterious; and their physician was induced to examine their bread. An analysis convinced him that it had been mixed with plaster of Paris, or some other substance. Having ascertained that other families had suffered from the use of the same bread, and learned where it was purchased, he gave information which led to the arrest of a man by the name of Vickers, who had been in the sale of flour in several parts of the town. It was found that he had on hand an immense quantity of Paris white, and plaster of Paris, with rollers and stone tables for pulverizing it, and sieves and other materials for mixing it with the flour. A great quantity of flour mixed with Paris white was found in his premises. The man confessed his guilt, and implicated his wife in the disgraceful transaction.

#### Curiosity of Nature.

In the midst of the great ledge, on the Northern N.H. Railway, which is chiseled 30 or 40 feet deep out of a solid rock, for more than a quarter of a mile, a body of peat is found, so wet and spongy that it was found necessary to dyke it with large timbers to keep it off the track. How this dripping peat muck found its way to this summit—the highest ground between the Merrimack and the Connecticut—is a marvel. But here it is, and as full of water as any muck on our low meadows.

#### Vine at Hampton Court.

It is said to be the largest in Europe, or in the world. It is eighty-nine years old. The glass-house built for it contains 2,200 square feet; but the house is much too small. The weight of its grapes in a fruitful year almost drags it down. Two thousand five hundred clusters, one pound each, are solemnly reported to have been gathered in one season. It is of the black Hamburg species. Its stem is thirty inches in diameter, and its length is trimmed down to one hundred and ten feet. We walked under it, and carefully surveyed its vast dimensions, with its thousands of growing clusters. Its fruit is carefully gathered and preserved for the Queen's desert.

#### Sad Accident.

Mr. Cornelius W. Lathrop, of Trenton, Mass., was lately engaged in sawing shingles in a mill in Raynham, and while standing in front of the circular saw, it suddenly broke, and a part of it struck across his face and his neck with such force as to sever the main artery, which caused his instant death. Mr. L. was a worthy man about thirty-seven years of age, and he has left a wife and several children.

#### Anything but a Mechanic.

Gildersleve gave up a good business in this city a few years ago to become a regular runner of races, yet he is now beaten by every Englishman or Indian that runs with him. His business was broken up, and he is broken down.

#### Destitution in New York.

By the half yearly Report of the Chief of Police of this city. We learn that 14,381 arrests have been made in six months. Lodgings have been given at night to no less than 12,889 unfortunate persons who are houseless.

The proprietor of a factory near Rochdale England, has been fined \$200 for not boxing up his machinery. A little girl who was carrying some tea to her father, had her arm torn off by one of the shafts. It is proposed to give the girl the fine.

The strip of land lying east of the range of the Sierra Nevada in California, and 20 to 200 miles wide, is described as the most fertile land in the world, while that lying west of it as far as the basin of the Rio Colorado, is barren and worthless; in fact, only a sand wilderness.

The information of a Traveller is very acceptable and will appear next week.

#### Our New Bedford, Mass., Patrons.

If our subscribers at the above place have not been served regular with the Scientific American for two of the past weeks we would inform them that it is not our fault, but in consequence of our agents not fulfilling their agreement or in other words neglecting to pay a demand which we hold against them. We have made arrangements with Mr. S. F. Hoyt now and in future the Scientific American may be obtained regular at his news room. We hope that those who formerly took the paper of Messrs. Robinson, Parsons, & Co., will continue to take it of Mr. Hoyt.

#### 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.

The Court of Common pleas of Philadelphia has decided that a tenant on a farm who ploughs down sod and grass for the purpose of planting, commits waste, and violates his implied lease; and that such a tenant is liable to a writ of injunction. Very bright decision.

The Bangor Whig states that an interest in the slate quarries at Barnard, Me., has been disposed of to dealers in slates in Boston. An agent has been sent to Wales for persons skilled in working slate quarries, and the business is to be carried on with energy.

The West Troy Bell Foundry last week received orders for a Church Bell from the Island of Cuba, and for one from Nassau Island of New Providence.

The Canada canals were free from ice on the 10th inst. Vessels of 400 tons can pass through them from Erie to the Ocean.

The tolls on the Welland Canal have netted \$120,000 this season.

A farmer recently waited upon Prince Albert with an improved plough, his own, and was entertained at Windsor Palace for a number of days and upon taking leave, he was presented with a Bible containing the autographs of Albert and Victoria.

Mrs Jane C. Washington present owner of the estate of George Washington, is willing, now, to dispose of 150 acres, inclusive of the buildings, grounds, and tombs, to the Government for \$100,000. Congress should buy it.

By the construction of a canal from the main branch of the Potomac to the eastern branch, an artificial island is formed.

John Brooks, of Princeton, lost \$400 last Sept., in Worcester. The money was restored by a priest, who received it from an Irishman at confessional.

An humble man is like a good tree; the fuller of fruit they are, the lower they bend themselves.

A steam engine is now being built of twenty horse power at the Navy Yard, at Washington, which is to be sent to California.

The handle of a jug and the handle of one's face are on the outside, and fashionable religion too much so at this time, we think.

Three things which never become rusty—money of the benevolent, the shoes of a butcher's horse and a woman's tongue.

Why is a ship's crew like a bomb shell? Because when discharged they go a Bust.

Isinglass and gin dissolved together by a very slow heat makes a good cement for glass.

A man in Providence, R. I. dislocated his jaw last wednesday by gaping.

It is estimated that the expenses of holding the court Martial now trying Col. Fremont, will exceed \$50,000.