

Artificial Stone.

We noticed some time ago that a process for making artificial stone was about to be patented in England, and by one of our late exchanges we learn that a patent has been secured and that the stone is now made artificially equal to granite and statuary marble. This invention is, from its cheapness a great advantage for all the purposes of architectural decoration; and from its plastic nature before it becomes hard of great service to sculptors, in taking casts of statuettes, busts, &c., and even of figures of the size of life. The cost is in all cases where carving is required in stone less by nine-tenths. The invention is founded upon the chemical analysis of the natural varieties of stone, and the manufacture is capable of such modifications as are requisite to produce all the varieties. The artificial stone is less absorbent than natural stone, and is superior in compactness of texture, and will resist frost, damp, and the chemical acids. It is made of flints, siliceous grit, sand, &c., rendered fluid by heat, and poured into moulds as required till cool and hardened. Its solidity and strength enable it to resist more blows than real stone. Specimens of the invention, to be seen in the office of the works, No. 6, John Street Bedford-Row, London, are exceedingly curious; they consist of many varieties, some being plain pieces of coping stone, stones for variegated pavements, and some more elaborate, having flowers and devices apparently cut with the chisel. There are also some grindstones, and hones, used by agricultural laborers for sharpening scythes and tools. The invention is also applicable to the lining of cisterns and water pipes, its vitreous qualities insuring cleanliness. Its cheapness is also a matter of consideration to those who require ornamental additions to houses.

Curiosities of Food.

The black broth of the Spartans was a famous dish, but like Dionysius, we are not such Spartans. The Dutchman can eat with great zest his sour fermented cabbage, and the Scots Highlander his braxy sheep. The Esquimaux can eat oil soap and what not and there are numerous tribes of Indians that live upon a certain kind of clay. The old Angles lived upon acorns and pork, the modern Angles upon coffee and beef. The food that is suitable to one people may not be so to another, and climate makes a great difference in the different kinds of food that should be eaten. What inhabitant of the torrid zone could live with impunity upon blubber as the inhabitant of the frigid zone can? Nature allows the appetite to decide for itself, as the conscience checks or approves good or evil acts. These promptings of nature may no doubt be destroyed by resisting its primitive teachings, but still it is a monitor, and no even rule of a certain kind of diet can be prescribed that will answer equally for every person. More physical evils arise from gorging the stomach than from any certain kinds of food. Moderate eating and plenty of exercise in the open air, is a sure remedy for many diseases, and certainly a greater preventive of, than remedy for, disease.

Education.

Accustom a child as soon as it can speak, to narrate his little experiences, his chapter of accidents, his fears, his hopes; to communicate what he has noticed in the world without, and what he feels struggling in the world within. Anxious to have something to narrate, he will be induced to give attention to objects around him, and what is passing in the sphere of his instruction, and to observe and note events will become one of his first pleasures; and this is the ground work of a thoughtful character.

Kindness in Conversation.

"There is no way in which good can be done to others with so little expense and trouble as by kindness in conversation. 'Words,' it is often said cost nothing: but kind words are often more highly valued than the most costly gifts, and they are often regarded as among the best tokens of a desire to make others happy."

A Sensible Girl.

Some years since a young lady remarkable for her maturity and good sense, daughter of a distinguished lawyer and member of Congress from Worcester county, was placed at a young ladies' boarding school in the neighborhood of Boston. Her unaffected manners, and sprightliness of character, soon attracted the attention, and won the affections of many of the young ladies, who were full of their kind offices, until one day they inquired of each other the occupation of their fathers.—Our fair friend, perceiving the drift of their enquiries, gave them to understand that her father was a shoemaker; when many of them were struck with horror at her low and vulgar origin, and a change was at once perceptible in their conduct towards her. She however, though fully understanding them, remained quiet. After a while, the father of the young lady visited the school. As he was a good looking man, and as they observed that the principal and others treated him with great deference and respect, the scholars were led to inquire of their instructress who he was, and what was his business; and on being told that he was the father of Miss H. and that he was a member of Congress, they were filled with amazement and immediately made the attempt to renew their attentions as formerly, but it was too late; she looked on their conduct with such perfect contempt, that they were obliged to keep at a respectful distance, while those who had treated her with kindness, without regard to her father's supposed occupation, were ever after her favorites. May the time soon come when modest worth shall be a standard of respect, whether the individual is rich or poor, learned or unlearned, a member of Congress or a humble shoemaker.

Don't Miss a Chance Girls.

Two servants who lived many years together, with an old gentleman in Northamptonshire, were one evening sitting by the kitchen fire, when the bachelor said to the maid "Hannah you and I have lived many years together, and been very comfortable; master gets very old and shaky, and can't last long; and when he dies we shouldn't like to part. So suppose we be married: we've saved a bit of money apiece, and when master's gone should live on a piece of land. What sayest, yes or no, at once?" Hannah replied, "No Peter, I'd rather not." Peter said no more about it. The next night the same parties sat in the same place. After a little time, Hannah said, "Peter, I've been thinking about what you said last night, and have altered my mind." Peter answered in three words, "So have I."

Aquatic Race.

On Tuesday last the great race took place between the Yacht Sloop Iris, which challenged all Boston commanded by British officers built in Halifax, modelled and rigged after the fashion of an English cutter, and two Boston pilot boats, the Sylph and Anonyma; all three being about the same tonnage. From half way between Fawn Bar and Nahant, they filled away and beat up to the city, a distance between 10 and 11 miles. The wind was westerly, not very fresh, what seamen call a "whole sail breeze," and the weather pleasant except a flurry of snow which lasted about half an hour, towards the close of the race. The Sylph reached the wharf a little before five o'clock, at which time the Iris was more than two miles astern, and the Anonyma about half a mile astern. It was intended that a trial of speed should have been made between the Iris and Mr. Perkin's yacht Coquette, but the Coquette was not ready.

The Best Patrimony.

A man may leave a patrimony to his son; but how soon it may be mortgaged! He may leave him money; but how soon it may be squandered! When he gives him a sound constitution an unblemished reputation, a good education, and an inward abhorrence of vice, in any shape or form, these cannot be wrested from him, and are better than thousands of gold and silver.

An Anti-Chewing Tobacco Society were recently organized at Union Hall, Boston. Among those who signed the pledge were several hard chewers,

Improved Firearms.

Dr. Jager, a German, has obtained patents in England for an improved method of igniting the charge in firearms, and has exhibited some very beautiful fowling pieces manufactured at Vienna, to which the invention is applied. The gun is loaded with a cartridge containing both powder and shot, or with two cartridges one containing powder and the other shot, or with a cartridge containing powder, with shot put in loose and covered with wadding. The end of the cartridge is so shaped as to fit into the conical chamber of the breech of the gun, and contains a small quantity of fulminating powder. Immediately over this is the touch hole. The cock of the gun is furnished with a small spike which enters the touch hole, and striking the cartridge, instantly explodes it. There is no nipple and no cap.—The rapidity of loading and firing is increased threefold. The interior of the barrel is kept clean and the discharge is quicker than in ordinary guns. It is obvious how great an improvement this is for military guns, more especially for cavalry, and how useful it is for sportsmen. Some of the guns exhibited had the cock beneath the stock, forced to strike upwards, and protected by the guard. The invention has been shown to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who has expressed himself highly pleased with it.

Value of Sawdust.

From the Portland Advertiser, we learn that shipping lists report at Frankfort, Dec. 10th "six small vessels loading with saw dust for Charlestown, Mass." The commodity is designed for packing ice at Charlestown and Cambridge—the great sources of the ice trade for almost the whole world.

A respectable income is now derived, at several places in that State, from the sale of pine sawdust, for this purpose, and the transportation gives employment to considerable tonnage. Thus the exigencies of luxury within the tropics and in many of the largest cities in the world are giving encouragement to the minutest results of industry in the "down east" regions of Maine.

At the steam saw mills, it is well known that the sawdust forms a large part of their fuel. Yet so little were either of these uses thought of till lately, that upon the erection of the first steam saw mills at Hallowell (the first in the state) it was deemed necessary to pass a law prohibiting the owners from obstructing the channel, by throwing sawdust into the river. Similar laws were passed to meet similar cases. Such legislation is now obsolete, and an article once deemed worthless, now teaches us to despise not small things.

Hanging By Telegraph.

The electric telegraph in England has been put to a very unusual and important service recently, of which an account is given in the London Times. A man was to be executed at the Maidstone jail, but before the hour appointed for fulfilling the sentence, a message was received at the London Bridge terminus from the Home Office, requesting that an order should be sent by the electric telegraph instructing the under sheriff at Maidstone to stay the execution two hours, as the case of the culprit was being reconsidered. Shortly after the transmission of the order deferring the execution for two hours, a messenger from the Home Office conveyed to the Secretary of State's order that the law was to take its own course, and that the culprit was to be at once executed. Mr. McGregor, one of the officers of the Telegraph Company, considered the second telegraph despatch as equal to a death warrant, requiring the signature of the home Secretary, to be affixed in the presence of their responsible officer, in order to be sure of its correctness. The messenger from the Home Office could not be certain that the order for execution was signed by the Home Secretary, although it bore his name, the Secretary on being informed of the difficulty, approved of the conduct of the telegraph officers, and affixed his signature in their presence when the man was hung.

A Good Deed.

Congress is about to take measures to stop the circulation of the small depreciated Spanish coins.

Generosity.

We always take pleasure in eulogising generous actions, those displays of the better part of our nature. The religion of Jesus is that of charity, unbounded generosity. "If thy neighbor thirst give him drink, if he be hungry give him food, if naked clothe him," is the command of him who went about continually doing good. The losses and sufferings by the recent floods on the Ohio River affording an opportunity for the display of generosity, and we learn by the Cincinnati papers of the following instances of liberal and praiseworthy conduct,

Messrs. T. & W. Gaff, millers of Aurora, had several hundred barrels of flour on hand, for which they were offered five dollars per barrel, by a man, who, in view of the prospective want of provisions, intended to speculate in the article. Messrs. Gaff, refused the offer, and turning to the clerk, ordered him to give a barrel to any poor man who needed it. And in this way dozens of barrels were given to the necessitous without charge.

At Lawrenceburg, Wm. E. Craft, Esq., caused it to be proclaimed to the houseless and needy, "Here are my warehouse and store—here are flour and meat; come and take what you need." And his clerks dealt them out to them as they came. Lewis & Engelbrecher caused the same thing to be made known concerning flour at their mill, and gave away to the destitute and unfortunate more than one hundred barrels. Messrs. Barr & Febiger had a number of their hogs slaughtered and cut up and given to a number who needed and wished.

One of the subordinate Lodges of Odd Fellows at Cincinnati promptly made an appropriation of three hundred dollars for the relief of the sufferers in that city, to which was as promptly voted five hundred dollars additional on the part of the Grand Lodge, to disburse which a committee was appointed, with instructions not to pass by any case of distress because its victims should not have special claims upon them as members of the order.

Outrage in France. An American Imprisoned.

Mr. Jacob Hundertfund, a respectable citizen of Newark, New Jersey, went to Europe in company with his son, about a year ago, and was induced by his friends to take with him several letters to the wife and brother of Nicholas Metzger, sometime since arrested in New York as a fugitive from France, where he was charged with forgery. Hundertfund, who was a total stranger to Metzger, delivered them as requested, and arrived in Paris, on his return home, on the 2d of December last, when he was arrested and imprisoned. Notwithstanding his protestations of innocence and the interference of the American Minister, he was kept ten months confined among felons and murderers, as a kind of hostage for the delivery of the forger Metzger, whom he had never seen in his life. He has just returned to his family and friends in Newark.

An association for cleaning clothes and boots has just been put in operation in Berlin. Employees of the society are stationed in more than thirty public places and great establishments in the city, who speedily put the costumes of the passengers in the streets into perfect order. The association has also set up an umbrella lending establishment. For the pledge of a Thaler (about seventy-five cents) any one can borrow an umbrella at any of the stations, and receive back his pledge on returning it, either where he borrowed it, or at any other station, on the payment of some five cents for a whole day's use, or a less sum for a shorter time.

A stranger passing through one of the mountainous towns of New England, inquired "What can you raise here?" The answer was, "our land is rough and poor: we can raise but very little produce, and so we build school houses and churches, and raise Men."

Missionaries and Rum.

The bark Catalpa, Capt. Watson, sailed on Wednesday last from Boston for Smyrna. She carried out a cargo consisting in part of 30,000 gallons of rum. Several missionaries, under the direction of the American Board, and destined for the Syrian Mission, departed in the same vessel.