

Newly Discovered Article of Food.

The Paris papers mention a vegetable production found on the high lands of the south of the French provinces of Africa, and in Algerian Sahara during the last campaign, which has been pointed out to the French Government by General Jussuf. The new article is a lichen which is found in a great part of Sahara. It is nourishing like the manna of the Hebrews. It is detached from the soil, on which it is rolled here and there by the wind, and has the appearance of small pieces of leather of the color of the earth, rolled and doubled up together.—It is dry and as hard as a grain of corn; it is white inside, and presents a farinaceous aspect when it is crushed, its taste is very much like dried grain, and mastication develops a slight degree of bitterness.

According to observations and information which have been collected it is produced every year, after the rainy season, under the form of moss, on the ground to which it is first attached. The upper part is then whitish, that which lies on the ground takes the color of the earth. The sun afterwards acts upon this substance, which becomes dry, rolls itself up and becomes crisp. It then detaches itself from the soil, and the wind drives it about and collects it under the tufts of thyme, the only vegetable which grows on the land where it is produced.

During years of scarcity the natives make of the lichen mixed with Barley, a coarse but very substantial kind of bread. The nutritive properties of the lichen commended it to the French Government who have given orders to have its properties fully tested as an article of food for the army in Africa.

Salt Lake near Santa Fe.

About seventy miles South of Santa Fe, and forty East of the Del Norte river, is a famous salt lake. It is several leagues long and of considerable breadth, and is the reservoir for several streamlets, that at certain seasons, pour their water into it as a common receptacle. There is found salt enough to supply not the territory only, but half the universe. It is transported not only to different parts of the territory, but finds a market in the neighboring departments. Yet there are other locations that supply it abundantly.

It is said that a single man, with great facility, could, in a single day, in the lake, collect five hundred bushels. The whole surface of the ground is covered with it to a considerable depth, and having above it a thin sheet of water (of course, deeply impregnated with it but not of sufficient quantity to hold all the salt in solution,) by the application of a hand or a spade, is readily thrown into heaps, and the wagon or animal brought to transport it is driven into the lake and loaded without the least delay or inconvenience. The salt, when carefully removed, is of a clean white color, as clear and beautiful as the best American table salt, but oftentimes, from the hurry and carelessness with which it is taken up, it is discolored with the intermixture of other substances, and hence its filthy color, like that found in distant locations, it is generally more or less tinged, unless boiled by foreign bodies, but in cooking it, it is relieved entirely from them. Here the people have an inexhaustible store of an article of necessary consumption.

Honesty of Heart.

There are some men who become so habituated to speaking and doing that which is wrong, that right and truth become antagonist to their very existence. How our hearts have wept to hear men boast of having been successful in deceiving others for pecuniary gain. A successful trick of bargain is a fetlock to every soul to chain it to the adamantine walls of endless despair.—Prof. Larry.

Persian Wisdom.

It is said that in the treasury of one of the monarchs of Persia, was found a vase with the following lines tinged with humor as well as philosophy, inlaid in gold:

"He who has no wealth, has no credit; he who has not an obedient wife has no repose; he who has no offspring, has no supporters: and he who has none of these, lives free from every care."

Quick Work and Burned Fingers.

A cast-iron pinion belonging to the packing press of one of our neighboring cotton factories, says the Baltimore Sun, accidentally broke on Monday forenoon, and in accordance with the usual energetic management of the concern, a pattern had been made and another one cast at the Baltimore Iron Works, by an early hour in the afternoon, which was taken red hot out of the sand, and confined by a wire to the axle-tree of the proprietor's carriage, immediately on its way to its destination, but before proceeding many squares, the wire broke, and the casting being dropped in the street, was discovered by a boy, who attempted to make a prize of it; but his surprise and consternation may be imagined upon finding it almost red hot. It is needless to add that he didn't pick it up, and we should have felt more commiseration for his burned fingers, but that instead of letting it be, the scorching admonition did not deter him from kicking it under a neighboring board pile, for further consideration. However, another boy, having observed the incident, gave information as to the locality of the magic metal, and being more securely fastened, it was once more on its destination, where it was bored, turned, fitted, and ready for operation before the heat of the casting was out of the metal.

As Bad as the Kidd Hamburg.

The Hibernia and Brookline whaling ships of New London, lately arrived at the Sandwich Islands with cargoes of gold. The crews of these ships discovered a vein of gold in Margarite Bay, California, and forsook the harpoon, took to the pickaxe, and toiled away most manfully in pursuit of the wealth which their imaginations depicted as lying each moment but a few shovels full deep in the earth. After it they dug, some fifty men, with all the tools they could raise, a hill one hundred feet deep, was soon demolished, 700 tons of earth removed, and about 500 dollars expended. Mining stock rose faster than ever the South Sea, Mississippi or Eastern land shares; 1,000 dollars we hear, was offered for a sailor's chance. Jack tugged harder in carrying off his armful of the glittering rock, than ever he strained an oar after a 250 bbl. whale. All the spare room in the ships was soon filled up. Instead of oil, barrels were crammed full of solid gold. There it lay in shining heaps, as in a genii's cave. Each man had but to help himself to a fortune which would put Croesus to the blush. The Brookline brought some thirty barrels of the ore to Honolulu and very generously gave it away, some knowing one having had the audacity to dispel the golden dream by declaring the whole to be a heap of that very common mineral, sulphuret of iron!

We knew an honest farmer who once lost a good field of corn for a few wagon loads of this valueless pyrite.

Really Good.

We do not think much of that man's religion who takes particular pains to show it. It appears to us that his heart is out of tune. If a man is really good, the temper of his mind will soon enough be discovered by his own neighbors, without having the label on his breast—"I am a true christian"—or without his fastening on his front door—on his counter, or on his hat, passages of Scripture. If he is indeed a true disciple, his daily walk and conversation will manifest it. His whole life will be a living epistle—a beautiful expression that—we love to repeat it—"living epistle" of his faith and practice. An humble christian is always retiring and conceals one half of his good deeds from the world and is never severe and dogmatical. His daily walk is a volume which all may read with pleasure and profit.

Premium Offered.

Some friends of the Sabbath, in Philadelphia, have offered \$100 for the best approved tract of 4, 8 or 12 pages, showing the pernicious influence of Sabbath recreations in health and morals, and meeting the popular reasons urged for them. Manuscripts may be addressed (post paid) until the 1st of May next, to William A. Hallock, 150 Nassau street, New York, or to Wilfred Hall, Esq., 144 1-2 Chestnut street Philadelphia.

Days without Nights and Nights without Days.

Dr. Baird in a recent lecture at Hartford, Conn, gave some interesting facts. There is nothing that strikes a stranger more forcibly, if he visits Sweden at the season of the year when the days are longest than the absence of night. The sun in June goes down at Stockholm a little before ten o'clock. There is a great illumination all night as the sun passes round the earth towards the North Pole, and the refraction of its rays is such that you can see to read at midnight. Dr. Baird read a letter in the forest near Stockholm at midnight, without artificial light. There is a mountain at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, where on the 21st of June, the sun does not go down at all. Travellers go up there to see it. A steambot goes up from Stockholm for the purpose of carrying those who are curious to witness the phenomenon. It only occurs one night. The sun goes down to the horizon, you can see the whole face of it, and in five minutes it begins to rise.

At the North Cape lat. 72 degrees, the sun does not go down for several weeks. In June it would be about 25 deg., above the horizon at midnight. The way the people there know it is midnight, they see the sun rise. The changes in those high latitudes from summer to winter are so great, that we can have no conception of them at all. In the winter time the sun disappears, and is not seen for six weeks. Then it comes and shows its face. Afterwards it remains for ten fifteen or twenty minutes, and then descends, and finally it does not set at all, but makes almost a circle around the heavens.

A Huge Ship.

In 1825 there was built on the river St. Lawrence a ship named the Baron of Renfrew which was the Scottish title of William the fourth. She was three hundred and nine feet in length, and of corresponding breadth. Six thousand tons of timber were wrought up in the construction of the immense floating fabric! She left the St. Lawrence for London on the 25th of August 1825, with a cargo consisting of ten thousand tons of timber, boards, staves, spars, lath-wood, &c. She was accompanied down the river by several steamboats, and having four masts crowded with sails, made a grand appearance. This enormous vessel crossed the Atlantic in safety, and arrived off Dover in the English Channel in about fifty days passage. She got pilots on board, and the question was how to get her into the river Thames, her draft of water being upwards of thirty feet. It was concluded to be unsafe to try the Queen's channel, a channel safe for the passage of the largest ship of war. She was accordingly taken outside of the Goodwin Sands, and towards the entrance of the King's Channel, farther to the Eastward. Off the Galloper light she met with a heavy gale, and finally got ashore on the Long Sand. She was got off the following day—and subsequently, on the 18th of October, rode out a heavy gale at the eastward of the sunk Light. But a succession of heavy gales from the northward came on and drove her ashore on the Flemish Banks, and after resisting for weeks the furious action of the waves, she was completely broken up, and her enormous cargo of lumber was scattered along the coast of Flanders from Calais to Ostend, and served the hardy fisherman inhabiting that region for firewood and building stuff during the succeeding winter.

Remarkable Escape.

On the 20th of Dec. the corn mill, which was located in the steam saw mill of Mr. W. E. Skidmore of Brockport, N. Y. was blown to pieces by the great velocity at which it was running, and the pieces were thrown in all directions over the room. At the time of the explosion Mr. Skidmore and Mr. Olds were working in the room, and their escape without serious injury is wonderful. Mr. Skidmore was slightly injured. A piece of iron about the size of a two ounce weight struck him on the right side just over the lower rib, and but for striking a large bone handled knife and a silver watch which happened at the time to be in his vest pocket, would in all probability have killed him instantly. As it was, the force of the blow was so great that it prostrated him for a few minutes.

An Old Sea Dog.

In the U. S. Senate, Mr. Dix, from the committee on commerce reported a bill providing for the issue of a register for the barque Canton, which was passed. This vessel was built of teak wood, in the East Indies, nearly one hundred years since. She was originally owned by the Dutch East India Company, but after various mutations of fortune, recently came under the Haytian flag. Early last winter she got ashore on the Muscle ledge, at the mouth of the Penobscot, where she remained combatting with the storms during the whole winter. But the strength of her timbers, notwithstanding her great age, proved more than a match for the winds and waves, and she was got off in the spring and taken to Bath, where she had been purchased. She was found to be but little damaged, was repaired, and is now again navigating the ocean. After passing through such an ordeal who will say that she is not worthy of bearing the stars and the stripes.

A Yankee.

Winchel, the droolerist and humorist, attended a recent Pilgrims Festival at Cleveland. He gave the following description of a Yankee:—

"A real live Yankee, just caught will be found not deficient in the following qualities. He is self-denying, self relying, always trying and into everything prying. He is a lover of piety, propriety, sobriety, notoriety, and the temperance society. He is a dragging, gagging, bragging, striving driving, thriving, hoping, swapping, jostling, bustling, wrestling, musical, quizzical, astronomical, poetical, philosophical, and comical sort of character, whose manifest destiny is to spread civilization to the remotest corners of the earth, with an eye always on the look out for the main chance."

Steam.

"Steam," said Mr. Webster, in a recent speech "is on the rivers, and the boatmen may repose on their oars; it is in the highways and begins to exert itself along the course of land conveyances, it is at the bottom of the mines a thousand feet below the surface of the earth; it is in the mill, and in the workshops of the trades. It rows, it pumps, it excavates, it carries, it draws, it lifts, it hammers, it weaves, it spins, it prints.—Exchange.

We believe that the above is to be found in Lardner's introduction to the History of the Steam engine.

Ancient Mines.

Dr. Wilson, in his travels through the lands of the Bible, last year discovered on the route from the Red Sea to Mount Sinai, the immense mountains alluded to by the author of the book of Job, as the source of the gold and silver of the early ages. From huge seams in the sides of the mountains was the ore dug out, and all the evidences of this mode of mining present themselves to the eye. How the grooves, or channels were cut out from such lofty heights to the base of the mountains does not appear. Immense must have been the waste of life in prosecuting the work.

A Gentleman of Color.

The richest man in St. Thomas, one of the principal ports in the West Indies, is a negro as black as ebony. He is said to be worth not less than three millions of dollars, and has acquired his wealth by trafficking in persons of his own color.

Cent Per Cent.

One of our city brokers who is luxuriating on the hard times at the rate of three per cent a month for his money, took a trip by railroad the other day, and seated himself in the very rear end of the trains because, he said the use of his money was worth something while the conductors were coming through the cars.

A good fire, a long night, a kind wife, and the Scientific American. A man who would cry for oysters, that has all these, ought to be set upon the machine they have out West for hatching eggs, and which beats the Knickerbockers all to smash. The modus operandi consists in filling a barrel with eggs, and then setting a hen on the bung-hole.

A new line of telegraph has been established from Baltimore to Harrisburg Penna.