



Dangerous Counterfeit.

The Journal of Commerce of this city, gives an account of a most dangerous counterfeit of gold eagles—so accurate as to defy any other test than severing the piece. They are accurate in weight, perfect in stamp, and seem to have gotten into banks extensively, and even to have defied the usual scrutiny of the mint. Upon one of them being sawn in two, it was discovered to be a mere shell of gold, the interior being filled with silver. The gold was worth \$1.25, leaving a good profit to the maker. Suspicion was excited in regard to this piece by its ring, which was peculiar; but other eagles which were genuine, were found to possess the same peculiarity. So perfect a fac simile is this counterfeit that it would seem there is no safety in receiving gold coin unless each piece is tried with the file—all other tests fail against this fraud. The interior must be platina, not silver.

Death from Hydrophobia.

A child of 7 years of age died last week in Philadelphia from the bite of a dog received last August. The wound had healed up and the child appeared in good health, when on coming from school a few days before she died she complained of pain where she had been bitten, and she soon foamed at the mouth and snapped at her father. She was then confined and died amid horrible sufferings. With all our modern skill and civilization this disease is still involved in mystery and baffles a cure.

A Giant.

A Spanish Giant born in the Basque provinces, who has christened himself Goliath, but whose real name is Joaquin Eleizequi, is now exhibiting himself in London to the gaze of the wondering cockneys. The stature of this Colossus, who is twenty-three years old, already far surpasses that of ordinary giants, as he is seven feet ten inches high, and weighs 450 lbs.; but he asserts that he has not yet reached his full size, as doctors say that he will not have done growing for three years to come.

Cruelty of an Oriental Prince.

Letters from India bring the account of a strange act of cruelty on the part of the Nizam's brother. Having detected her in some crime, he caused her to be enclosed in a room built up around her, and seven of her slave girls to be locked up in another apartment having only eyelet holes through which he could witness their dying agonies. The relatives of the wife interfered, but in vain; they were obliged to obtain troops to attack the house, when she was released, nearly dead, from the horrible dungeon.

A case of cruelty as horrible as the above has lately been discovered in Glasgow Scotland. It is too horrible for us to relate, and resulted in the death of the wife of John Fay a shoemaker. Fay has been banished for life to the Australias. Civilization has her crimes as well as barbarism.

A Hermit.

A German gave his name as Gross, was last week found in the cavern of a rock, near Riker's Island, where it is said, he has lived alone for six years. The cave was so contracted that it was impossible for him to sit up in it, his only position being prostrate. His only bed being an armful of straw which served to shelter him from the cold. He subsisted entirely upon the charity of those who would give him, requiring little clothing—and what he had was in tatters. He obstinately refused to leave his abode, and the only way he could be got out of his cavern, was by tying a rope round his body and dragging him out. He is a man of about forty-five, of muscular proportions, very competent to obtain a livelihood, but too indolent to work for the necessaries of life.

On an average there are 20 or 30 social balls given every week, at different places in this city.

Odor Destroyer.

Mr. Young a chemist of Manchester England, has discovered that a waste product from the manufacture of chlorine, consisting chiefly of a solution of manganese, destroys the odor of nightsoil and other decomposing matters without impairing their fertility. The liquid is produced in very large quantities, and has hitherto been thrown away.

Chloroform.

This substance which has all at once sprung into emiaence from its wonderful powers in producing nervous insensibility, so that what were once painful operations are no more, can be had in its purity, at E. A. Kent's Druggist, 116 John st.

Thickness of Fibres.

The thread of the silk worm is about the two-thousandth part of an inch in diameter.—The fibre of the wool varies from the seven-hundredth to the two-thousandth of an inch. The fibre of flax is the two-thousand five hundredth of an inch. The fibre of cotton is the one-thousandth of an inch, and the fibre of the pineapple varies from the five-thousandth to the seven-thousandth part of an inch in diameter.

Quiet Cure.

Chloroform is said to be a good remedy against scolding wives. A friend of ours, says the Providence Transcript, keeps it constantly on hand, and says "no family should be without it." The proper time for the husband to take it is when he sees the "squall coming up," and by the time it strikes him he will be roving through fields of unalloyed bliss. This certainly is a triumph of science, and the discoverer will receive the thanks of not a small part of the male portion of every community.

Choosing a Text.

The Journal of Commerce illustrates the liberal method some preachers have of quoting and constructing scripture. It mentions that one of these gentlemen took for his text these words: "Top not come down"—for the purpose of preaching a sermon against the fashions. When his hearers turned to the passage they found it to run thus; "Let him that is on the house-top not come down."

In and out of Place.

Talleyrand once said that the art of putting men in their proper places was perhaps the first in the science of government. We do not always succeed; sometimes we send men to Congress whom we ought to send to State Prison; and place men on the bench whom we ought to set before the bar: men are seen laboriously thumping the cushion who ought to be thumping the anvil. You will sometimes see a college graduate who cannot write a page of good English, nor even spell well such English as he can write.

Important.

The Yorkshire papers state that Prince Albert has been most graciously pleased to accept a *fat pig*, the best of bacon, real York, a present from the Leeds Association for the Improvement of Pigs and Poultry.

Trees.

The Elm tree is full grown in one hundred and fifty years, but lives from five to six hundred years. The Oak is full grown in 200 years. The Ash in one hundred. An oak in three years grows 2 feet 19 inches; the Elm, 8 feet three inches; the Beech, 1 foot 5 inches: the Poplar, 6 feet, and the Willow 9 feet 2 inches.

The Carnage of Peace.

By the Montreal Herald, we learn that out of 100,000 Irish emigrants who left their country for Canada last year, 25,000 have already perished of famine, disease, and exposure. There is one unbroken chain of graves from Quebec along the shores of the St. Lawrence to distant Erie. Well may we exclaim what has christian civilization done to make the world more happy?

Peruvian Steamer.

There is now lying at the foot of 12th st. a beautiful steamer of the most exquisite model, built in this city by Brown and Bell for the Peruvian Government. She has two engines of 450 horse power each built at the Novelty Works on the Napier plan.

Danish Mail Route.

A company has just been formed at Copenhagen, for establishing steam communication between Denmark, the Faro Islands, Iceland, and Scotland. The communications which will take place every fortnight, are to be commenced on the 1st of April. The government has accorded a reduction of port and anchorage duties to steamers which may undertake them.

Danish Colonization.

It has already been stated that the King of Denmark had sent a Commission to some of the Nacobar Islands in the Indian Ocean, to ascertain if they presented favorable circumstances for colonization. The commission having returned, and made a satisfactory report, the King has ordered two frigates to be fitted out to take on board colonists, and all the objects necessary for their establishment.

New Propeller.

The new steam propeller Columbus, for the New Orleans and Havana line made a trial trip at Philadelphia on Thursday—speed 11½ miles to the hour with 7 lbs. steam and throttle half open. It is expected that she will easily run 13½ miles per hour with a full load.

Champlain Ship Canal.

The survey of the ship canal, designed to connect the St. Lawrence river with that of Lake Champlain, is progressing. The Plattsburg Republican entertains no doubt that the examination of the intervening territory will result in the establishment of the noble enterprise alluded to.

Criminal Carelessness.

A bed in which were several children asleep, took fire one night last week at Pittsburg and the lives of the children were only saved by the timely aid of watchmen. Every grown person belonging to the house, was out at the time.

Death after Interment.

We hear it rumored, that a female was interred in Charlestown, Mass. recently, whose body was subsequently found in a state that proved her to have recovered animation, and suffered all the horrors of death by starvation in the tomb. Many such cases are related, perfectly authentic, and of such a character as to urge upon us the importance of due caution, in not too hastily interring the apparently dead.

Union Magazine.

The February number of this beautiful monthly is received and we cannot say too much in its praise.

It is edited by Mrs. Kirkland a lady well known in the literary world, and a person who shows great skill and tact as editress of this publication. The present number is illustrated with eleven original engravings (some of these are steel and most beautiful) and a page of music, entitled "The Merry Sleigh Bell." Israel Post Publisher, 148 Nassau street.

A Plain Charge.

An able judge was once obliged to deliver the following charge to a jury. "Gentlemen of the jury, in this case the counsel on both sides are unintelligible; the witnesses on both sides are incredible; and the plaintiff and defendant are both such bad characters, that to me it is indifferent which way you give your verdict."

Songs for the People.

We find upon our table a pamphlet with this title, from the press of Zeiber & Co., Philadelphia. It is a most excellent work. It is got up in excellent shape and we recommend it to all lovers of song. Monthly, \$0 per year.—*Manchester, N. H., Democrat.*

A very cheap pamphlet neighbor, and no mistake, but look out for a squall in the composing room. You will find that all the songs will shortly be set to D flat, if

Monthly you keep singing so,
Paying the printer with an "0."

If we suppose the density of the earth to be five thousand two hundred and forty, (the density of water,) the sun would be as ebony; Mercury as fluid quicksilver; Venus as zinc; Mars as diamond; Jupiter as milk; (would his moon be green cheese?) Saturn as the first tree; and Herschell as amber.

The whole of Northern Wisconsin is being transformed, with a rapidity that none can realize without witnessing, from a tenantless wilderness to a populous territory, under the joint labors of the enterprising American, and the frugal, industrious German.

The Bamboo cane is used in the East Indies for building houses and bridges, and for making cups, mats, pipes, boxes, cloth, cordage, and cables. In China it is used for making chairs, tables, bedsteads, bedding, and paper; and in the West Indies its tender shoots are pickled for the table.

Archimedes said that if he had a place whereon to rest the fulcrum of a lever he could move the earth. This was undoubtedly correct, but if he used a power of 30 lbs. at the end of the lever, he would have to work ten hours a day, for 8,775,991,550,767 centuries to move the earth one inch.

There are employed at the Novelty Works in this city, 600 men, whose wages amount weekly to \$5,400. The company is building the two Bremen line steamers, the "Herman" and the "Franklin," besides two for the Panama line, and two others for Savannah.

There are two thousand five hundred known species of fish; forty-four thousand of insects; seven hundred of reptiles; four thousand of birds; and five thousand of maniferous animals.

There appears to be a strong and rational probability that water will become the principal fuel for supplying steam engine furnaces with fire.—*Exchange.*

Irrational probability we think.

A new process is said to be lately discovered whereby iron and steel can be as easily soldered as tin.—*Ex.*

We should like to know where it was discovered and when.

At a review of 150,000 troops lately in Russia, the Emperor said this is not mere theory. In two years, I will lead these troops to gloriions conquest, "I am not pleased with my neighbors."

Sir W. Young and Capt. Charitte of the British Army, have been found guilty of conspiracy in the sale of a false cadetship for £3,000.

Propositions are before Congress to increase the number of Commanders and Lieutenants in the Navy, and to establish the British grade of Admiral.

The London Times opens richly upon the iniquity of English Judiciary Courts as at present composed of men of suspicious reputation.

Mr. Westcott offered a resolution in the U. S. Senate last Monday calling on the Commissioner of Patents for information on the subject of explosion of Steam Boilers.

A Brazillian merchant at Para, recently asked an American whether the United States were as large a town as Para. Para contains 12 or 14,000 inhabitants.

It is rumored that our Government has contracted a loan for \$20,000,000 with Russia through her minister at Washington. We hope this is not true.

The Jesuit Cathedral and Academy in Elizabeth St., this City, was destroyed by fire last Sunday morning.

Prof. Malder of Dorpat, is of opinion that the comet of 1264, may be looked for during this month and February.

If cider is kept free from the action of the atmosphere, it is more pure in color than after it is exposed.

An eccentric old gentleman of a short memory was in the habit of addressing letters to himself through the post office.

The Rothschilds are about to establish a branch of their house in this country.

A Bill is before Congress to charge 25 cents on all foreign letters.

The Bill to punish adultery has been passed by the Senate of this state.