



Ocean Steamer United States.

This splendid vessel, just completed by W. A. Webb, of this city, and intended to ply between New Orleans and Liverpool, made her first trial trip last Saturday morning.—Leaving Secor's wharf, foot of Ninth street at about half past 9, she reached Sandy Hook, a distance of 18 miles from Governor's Island, in 1 hour and 18 minutes, without any extraordinary exertions. In returning she met the Hibernia at Quarantine, rounded under her quarter, and running out seven miles, beat the Hibernia one mile in the distance. She had 1000 tons of coal on board, a quantity sufficient to carry her through two trial trips and a passage across the Atlantic. Her engines are from the manufactory of Messrs. Secor & Co.

#### Steam Boilers.

Some people think that if engines are good no matter what the boilers may be, all the requisites of power and speed are attained.—There never was a greater mistake. The boilers are the focus of power, the engines only distribute it. For this reason, all good engineers look as much to the quality of iron and the mode in which steam boilers are constructed and set up, as they do to the engines.

#### The Comet.

If Halley's comet appears this year, it will be seen with the naked eye as a brilliant star, but it will not be viewed with that dread which made the Emperor Charles the fifth resign his crown in 1556. Science has made us friends with the fiery hosts of heaven, and instead of dreading their appearance as our forefathers did, we look anxiously for their coming, as for that of expected long absent friends.

#### Surplus Money in Russia.

The Journal of St. Petersburg announces that there was again found to be a large sum in ingots and specie, to the credit of the Empire. There was taken from it on the 19th October the sum of 8,678,609 rubles, 20 kopees, which was placed with all the formalities requisite, in the presence of Prince Peter of Oldenburg, and several other high functionaries, in the vaults of the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul. The treasure which is now laid in that fortress amounts to 114,674,959 roubles—(a rouble equalling 75 cents.)

#### Extraordinary Petrification.

While some persons in the employ of Maj. Bates, of Guernsey, in Ohio, were engaged in quarrying stone for the repair of the National Road, on the hill west of Cambridge, they found, in a petrified state, what was supposed to have been the body of an Indian child, which perhaps centuries ago was deposited in that spot. This extraordinary specimen of ancient remains was found imbedded in a mass of solid rock, and has the appearance of a stone image, somewhat imperfect in its outer form, yet having the general outlines of the human shape. The material of which it is composed appears to be a species of limestone. In the same cavity was also found a small row of what appears to be Indian beads, matted together.

#### A Deacon's Invention.

A curious invention to prevent sleeping in church has been brought out. It is a long squirt fixed on the deacon's seat, under the pulpit. It turns on a pivot, and being filled with cold water it can be aimed at an individual in any part of the house. One of the audience being discovered asleep, the deacon discharges a stream of cold water in his face, which has, thus far, never failed of waking up the sleeper. Much credit is due to the gentleman who planned this ingenious device.

#### Sugar Crop in St. Mary.

The Franklin Planters' Banner states that the sugar crop of the parish of St. Mary for this season, (1847) amounts to 26 thousand hogsheads.

#### Wanted Girl Emigrants.

The poor peasant girl, the strawplatter of Buckinghamshire, the dairymaid of Devonshire, the Scotch shepherdess, and all the crowd of girls who, from time to time are compelled to resort to great cities in search of subsistence, and who, struggling amid a crowd of competitors for bread, find beauty, or even common comeliness, their bane, would, in Australia—married, full-fed, and happy—wean the rude bushmen from their barbarous ways, and bring them back to the old English style of their forefathers. The moral amendment of Australia lies in hearths and homes: and these must be founded in the wilderness.—*A voice from Australia by a Bushman.*

The Oregonites and the Australians are in the same trouble about wives. We would conscientiously recommend an emigration society for the purpose of supplying the colonial young men with wives. There are hundreds of young women who would make virtuous wives who are subject daily to privations and temptations in every large city. Let them be placed in a comfortable independence and the better part of human nature will arise in ascendancy. Poverty and crime, riches, and licentiousness, are the extremes of life. Blessed is that country which is neither rich nor poor.

#### Prizes.

Mr. Oliver, publisher of the Organ, offers 150 dollars for the best essay, not exceeding eight pages of the Organ, on the "Moral Religious, and Political Evils of the Liquor Traffic, and Means for its prohibition."

For the second best, the sum of fifty dollars. The money will be paid to the successful competitors on demand, as soon as the judges announce their decision.

The following gentlemen have consented to act as judges; Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D. Rev. George Peck, D. D. of New York, and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, of Brooklyn.

All papers for competition must be sent in by the 3rd of June next.

#### Newfoundland Fisheries.

Newfoundland, is destined, and that, before many years elapse, to fill an important space in North American history. Its capacities are immense; it possesses within and around it the elements of future power and greatness.

The French have 25,000 men engaged in the Fisheries on the banks, with 500 large vessels, and that they cure a million quintals of fish a year; the Americans 2000 schooners of 30 to 120 tons, and 37,000 men. They cure a million and a half of quintals. The British cure a million of quintals, like the French, have 25,000 fishermen and sailors employed, 520 sealing ships from 100 to 180 tons, and 10,082 open boats.

Newfoundland is also stated to be well adapted to agriculture, and is evidently one of the best nurseries for seamen in the whole world.

#### An Eulogy.

An editor summing up the virtues of a Soap Boiler, lately deceased, concluded his eulogy with the usual phrase of "peace to his ashes." The next day he was waited upon by a friend of the family who threatened to "pound thunder out of him" unless he made a retraction. His reference to their friend's ashes they looked upon as a personal reflection, and what is more, that they mean to treat it as such.

#### Sudden Growth.

A gentleman dining at a fashionable hotel, where servants were "few and far between," despatched a lad among them, for a cut of beef. After a long time the lad returned and placing it before the faint and hungry gentleman, was asked, "are you the lad who took away my plate for this beef?" "Yes, sir" "Bless me;" resumed the hungry wit, "how you have grown."

The contents of the reservoir at Massilon, Ohio, ninety feet above the town, broke out on the 23rd inst., causing a complete deluge, and tearing down several brick ware houses, a brick factory, the Tremont House, the canal embankments, and almost all the store-houses.

A new plank road is projected from Buffalo to Niagara Falls.

#### Hydrophobia.

The following is said to be a preventive of hydrophobia, discovered by a French physician, M. Cossar; take two table spoonful of fresh chloride of lime, in powder—mix it with half a pint of water, and with this wash keep the wound constantly bathed, and frequently renewed. The chlorine gas possesses the power of decomposing this tremendous poison, and renders mild and harmless that venom against whose resistless attack the artillery of medical science has been so long directed in vain. It is necessary to add, that this wash should be applied as soon as possible after the infliction of the bite.

This is not a new discovery, we have known its value for a long time. Chloroform as an auxiliary would make the chloride of lime a perfect cure.

#### Preserving Milk.

An English paper states that Mr. Yates, an excessive corn-factor, has presented W. F. Wratlaw, of Rugby, with a can of milk capable of being kept in a good and fresh state for an indefinite length of time by means of a chemical process which it undergoes on being taken from the cow. It was manufactured at Toxall, near Stafford, on the estate of Earl Talbot. The process has been patented, and not only may a rich sweet milk be constantly had, but also a rich cream, convertible into butter, in a very short time.

#### New Carriage.

Mr. Maxton, the chief mechanical engineer, at Cairo, has made a design for a steam carriage, capable of conveying a whole cargo of passengers, baggage, and goods of one steamer, across the desert in a few hours, and which, with all the necessaries will cost \$17,000

#### A Newly Invented Rail.

The whole of the line of railway between Darlington and York in England is being relaid with new rails, chains and sleepers. The rail is of new invention, and of a very superior make, and is considered as a great improvement upon the old description, as the surface of the rail being convex, it presents much less surface to the wheel, and thereby the friction is much reduced—a great desideratum.

#### New Fabric.

A new species of flaxen thread has been produced at Berlin which, the Prussian papers say will supersede silk. We doubt it.

#### Gas Improvements.

Mr. Palmer an engraver of Middlesex, London has just taken out a patent for an improved method of producing inflammable gasses of greater purity and higher illuminating power.

#### New Piano.

Every body has heard of the Irishman's ingenious invention intended to supersede the piano. It was composed of a horizontal board with a row of holes, through which were inserted the tails of big and little pigs, scientifically arranged according to the tones of their owner's voices. These answered in the room of keys, and the instrument was played by pinching or pulling, instead of a strike, as with the piano.

#### Explosion.

Lately at Charleston, S. C., a boiler at Tow's mills exploded with the most disastrous effect. The head of the boiler was blown out in an easterly direction over a street, carrying with it a portion of the roof of a stable, about 150 yards from it. The boiler itself was carried directly across Washington street, passing through a small building opposite, occupied as an office by Lewis & Rollins, colored men, and landed in their wood yard on the other side. Lewis was sitting in the office, writing at the desk, when the explosion took place. The boiler struck him in the abdomen, and literally blew to him atoms.

Since the law against dogs running at large went into operation, upwards of 500 have been slaughtered in Philadelphia, and its districts.

A whale of large size was seen off the bar at Charleston, S. C., a few days since, which is announced in the Charleston papers as a wonderful occurrence.

In Russia, the pavements are almost wholly formed of wood. In New York this has been repeatedly tried, but without success.

Wood is kyanized by soaking it in a solution of corrosive sublimate, which coagulates the albumen, which is the destructible portion, and when so prepared it will not decay, or crack, by the changes of temperature.

Some of the newspapers complain of the high rate of magnetic telegraph charges in this country. What would they say if the price of intelligence through this channel were as high as in England. The charge made by the electric telegraph between London and Liverpool for sending a dozen lines is three pounds.

A foot race lately took place in England between Jackson, the American Deer, and a man of the name of Hays. Jackson was beat two hundred yards in four miles. They run at the rate of a mile in five minutes and fifteen seconds—the swiftest running on record.

There are only two gentlemen in the Pennsylvania Legislature, all the rest of the members, 98, have to work in some shape or other for a living. So says a Pennsylvania paper, and from which we infer, that the definition of "a gentleman," in that State, is a fellow that does not work for a living, or, in other words, "a loafer."

In the New York State Lunatic Asylum, the weekly consumption of food is about 16 bbls. wheat flour—1800 lbs. of beef and mutton—280 lbs. salt fish—620 lbs. butter, and 30 bush. potatoes, beside sundries, indian meal, tea, coffee, &c.

An act of the Ohio Legislature, of February 8, 1847, establishes the following as the weight of the bushel;—Wheat, 60 pounds; rye, flaxseed, or Indian corn, 56 pounds, barley 58 pounds. cloverseed, 64 pounds, oats 32 pounds.

Formerly when a Turkish baker was discovered to have sold bread of short weight, his ear was nailed fast to his door post, and he was then supplied with a sharp knife, to work when tired of his position his own deliverance.

The citizens of Albany, are about petitioning the Legislature to throw open the state Library on the Sabbath.

We suppose the Citizens of Albany consider that the Librarian has no right to a day of rest.

The Emperor of China is the oldest monarch in the world; Mehemet Ali, King of Egypt is next to him; Ernest Augustus, King of Hanover is the third in age; and Louis Philippe, the fourth, and the Emperor of Austria the fifth.

Mr. Stansbury, an artist of considerable merit has made a most truthful sketch of Ex President Adams, as he laid on his couch breathing his life out, with a countenance perfectly calm and placid.

A Miller, in giving a certificate to 'the proprietor of Mr. Harrington's pills,' for destroying vermin, make the following Chinese assertion. "I was full of rats a fortnight since, and now I don't think I have one."

It is rumored that a few noblemen and gentlemen of London have formed themselves into a committee for bringing about an improvement in the dress worn by men.—*Times.*

Probably model artistry, all that they are good for, the lazy rascals.

A family residing in Littledale, near Lancaster, England, is said to have owned and occupied the same farm during the last 600 years; and its head is reported lately to have sold for old iron the armor in which his fore-father fought at the battle of Flodden.

A plank road is to be built from the Pine Plains near Rome, Oneida Co., N. Y., to Oneida Lake. This road will open up a beautiful country.

Tenants are forming leagues against the high rents in this city.

There are seventy-three Mechanics Mutual Protections in the United States.