



France.

"There is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous." These words were uttered by Napoleon, when amid the flames of Moscow he was obliged to dictate the retreat of the grand army. By the last steamer from Europe, we learn some very important particulars regarding France. Louis Philippe was a king one day, and on the next a fugitive, and in a few days he is found on the ocean in an open boat with the partner of his regal honors, struggling against wind and tide to reach a foreign strand. He was picked up and carried to England without a change of clothes and but a solitary five franc piece in his pocket. Sad comment on the stability of thrones in our day.

France has been declared a Republic, and one feature very different from the old Revolution is, that Religion is respected. The people found an image of the Saviour in the Tuilleries and the crowd even in the midst of revolution, bowed before it. We hope that peace and concord may be with France, if she be virtuous she will be happy. There appears to be some disturbance amongst the working classes—this is an element that may yet bring the rich and poor into fierce collision. There have been riots in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland, and a number have been shot. All Europe is in commotion, and there is one feature pervading the entire population of these countries, and one that many are overlooking, viz. that all this strife is but a presage of coming events and those events are "the rights of labor." It is the toiling millions of Europe who are arousing to demand—not to beg—of man to enjoy the fruit of their toil.

Jethro Wood's Patent Plough.

Mr. Farrelly of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Patents in the House of Representatives, reported against extending Wood's patent, so on motion the bill was laid on the table. To the credit of the House of Representatives be it spoken, the merits of the application of Wood's heirs was far more correctly examined by them than by the Senate. The patent had been in force twenty-one years. Our words have not been ineffectual in warning and rebuking. Mr. Farrelly deserves much credit for his interest in the true and legitimate rights of inventors, and the rights also of the community. He is the gentleman who so forcibly advocated a good salary to competent Patent Office Examiners.—The Bill, from the motion to lay on the table, may be said to be defeated. We always thought that the Bill in itself, at any rate, was unconstitutional, at least some of its provisions, and could not be enforced in the States.

Explosion.

The boiler of the foundry, of Curtis and Randall, East Boston, exploded on the 23d ult and instantly killed the engineer, and dangerously wounded five or six others—one of whom has since died. It blew the roof from off the building, and blew down the side wall. The cause of the explosion was supposed to be the exhaustion of the water in the boiler while the workmen were gone to dinner. When they came back the Engineer started the force pumps to fill the boiler, when an immediate and dreadful explosion followed.

The fire should have been immediately taken from the boiler instead of letting in cold water.

Barry's Tricopherous.

There is no preparation which we have ever tried for the hair that gives us such perfect satisfaction as has the use of Barry's Tricopherous. It is effectual in removing all dandruff from the head, and keeps the hair in a soft and glossy state, yet entirely free from giving it a greasy or oily appearance. Prepared only by Barry, 137 Broadway. Price 25 cents per bottle.

Curious Effect of Oil.

The effect of oil in smoothing the surface of the troubled waters is well known. Attention was directed to the fact by Dr. Franklin more than half a century ago; but this property of oil was known many centuries since, and has furnished not merely matter of speculation and amusement to philosophers but, has been applied from time immemorial by the natives of various and distant countries, to the most important uses of procuring provisions. The fishermen on the coast of Provence, it is said, ages ago, adopted this plan to enable them to see the muscles and other shell-fish at the bottom of the sea. The same plan was also adopted by the same order of men in the Tagus, near Lisbon and by the inhabitants of the Hebrides, even of the most remote isles, St. Kilda.

There was once a law in force in England that when a ship was in danger during a tempest, and it was necessary to throw overboard goods to lighten the vessel, if oil was on board and could be reached, that must be thrown over first, that it might produce the effect of smoothing the waves, and prevent danger by shipping seas. Even at this day the Ragusians, when they go on fish-spear excursions, throw oil upon the water with a brush that they may thus obtain a clear prospect of the bottom. The transparent openings thus formed they call windows. Doubtless oil could sometimes be used to advantage in this way by the fishermen in our harbors.

A New Life Preserver.

The Detroit Daily Advertiser relates the following incident which is rather a poser for your light fellows:—

A remarkable accident occurred a few days since to a worthy citizen of Detroit, Mr. Roger Fitzpatrick, brewer. Mr. F. had been across the river, and on returning in a canoe, with two others, the frail bark was capsized near the middle of the stream. The weather was extremely cold, and the river was filled with masses of floating ice. Mr. F. unable to swim, threw himself upon his back, folded his arms across his breast, and calmly submitted himself to the action of the wind and waves. Being a corpulent man, and wrapped in a large overcoat, he kept on the surface of the water, but in a few moments became unconscious. The wind was blowing fiercely, and Mr. F. floated towards her majesty's dominions. Some persons happened to see the body, and dragged it on the beach, and sent for one of the Queen's Coroners.

The usual methods of restoring drowned persons were resorted to—the jaws pried open and brandy poured down the throat:—Mr. Fitzpatrick opened his eyes and very coolly inquired what they "wanted todo with him." We saw Mr Fitzpatrick yesterday, quietly pursuing his vocation.

There now, all those lean fellows, who never wish to die by drowning, must laugh and grow fat on beef and beer.

Lots of Fish for the Cookweys.

It is stated that 86,000 bushels of soles have been forwarded during the last year, to the London market, from the Silver Slip, a kind of hollow about three quarters of a mile long, and about sixteen fathoms deeper than the neighboring sea, which was accidentally discovered six years ago on the Yorkshire coast, 14 miles off Flamborough Head, and which is said by the fishermen to have contained a bed of fish five or six feet deep.

Guano.

By accounts from Peru, the Government of that country have fixed the price of guano at £3 per ton, free on board; and it is said, if the last years consumpt be regarded as the average, there is supply for nearly a hundred years.

Gold in Russia.

The produce of the gold mines in Russian Siberia is increasing so much, as to render it certain that the value of this metal must be seriously affected. In 1827 the product was four and a half millions of dollars. In 1846 it was 17 millions and the Russian Government expects a steady increase for years to come.—This we extract from a printed report by the British Parliament.

Parker's House Cisterns.

The Cisterns for domestic purposes invented by Mr. O. Parker of Syracuse are constructed in the following described manner.

The cistern is built of cement without brick or stone, say one-third cement, two thirds of coarse gravel mixed together like common mortar—the hole in the ground being dug large enough to admit a wooden frame, made in pieces of two feet high by three feet long, the pieces being fastened firmly together by hooks and staples; the frame is set off from the sides, say 2½ to 3 inches, according to the nature of the soil, commencing with one row of pieces; the composition (cement and gravel) is then turned in slowly, another set of pieces then broken on, adding composition as before. As the composition hardens, the frames are removed, and it is finished inside with a trowel, like the wall of a house. The top is arched, leaving a hole at top say 24 inches square, to admit a person for the purpose of cleaning it when necessary. The bottom is flat, and made after the sides and top are finished.

For pipes for carrying the water in, and waste pipe, use a round stick, say 3 to 5 inches in circumference, and from the composition around the stick, withdrawing the stick, as the pipe is formed.

The cover to the hole on top of the Cistern is generally of wood, in which you insert either wooden pipe or lead pipe, though a lead pipe can be easily inserted into any part of the Cistern by boring a hole through the cement after it is thoroughly hardened.

The cisterns that are built with the Heidelberg flag stone in Albany County, however, are the best and cheapest in the world.

Green Wood.

No person should ever burn green wood. It is full of water and much carbon is wanted to dispel the water contained in the wood. There is about one fourth of water in every cord of wood.

To ascertain the caloric lost, we must find the weight of water in a cord of wood. In his careful experiments on the combustion of wood, Count Rumford proved that a cord of dry beech weighs about 2,800 pounds, which must be three-fourths of the weight of the green beech; that is, a cord of green beech must weigh 3,700 pounds, or taking the mean between one third and one fourth, must be more than 4,900 pounds. In burning a cord of green beech, at least one thousand pounds of water must be evaporated, and 1000 pounds of water would fill three barrels of 32 ale gallons, or nearly two hogsheads of sixty-three gallons wine measure. The quantity of caloric lost in this way may be estimated in a rough way by the quantity of wood consumed in evaporating three barrels or two hogsheads of water.

In the combustion of 20 cords of green wood, 60 barrels of water must be evaporated. Now, it takes six times as much heat to evaporate a pound of water, as to heat a pound from 50 degrees of temperature to the boiling point.

The economy in using dry wood is well understood by many. These views give adequate reasons for it. Yet it is to be feared, that many a farmer does not use proper care in drying and housing his wood.

Union Magazine.

The April number is just issued and well sustains the reputation which the former numbers have made for the work. The Union is the best monthly literary publication in the country and we heartily recommend it to the public. Israel E. Post, Publishers, 150 Nassau st.

Holden's Dollar Magazine.

The number for April of this cheap magazine is out and comes to us as usual stored with a great variety of original and interesting matter.—Published at 132 Nassau st.

Two weavers have been convicted at the Court of Common Pleas, Taunton, Mass., for riot. This was for the turn out at Fall River.

The guns captured from the Sikhs are to be placed muzzle to muzzle in a column 150 feet high, at Calcutta; and the top of the pillar is to be surmounted with a figure of Britannia, supported by two seapoyes.

Turpentine.

The consumption of this article is increasing vastly—much beyond the general calculation and belief. One principal source of this increase is in the use of the distilled spirits of turpentine, known under the name of Camphene, and is used in place of oil in almost every family. Camphene is not explosive, although its combination with alcohol is, and it is therefore safer to use except where there may be a number of children in a family. In making turpentine a medium sized pine tree, with large top, furnishes the turpentine best. In North Carolina, however, trees of only eight or nine inches diameter are often selected.—The tree is tapped for its sap in the months of December, January and February. The first turpentine which flows is called *virgin* turpentine, and care is taken to preserve the pure white color which is natural to it—rosin made from the virgin turpentine is transparent.—The sap is distilled like malt and the result is turpentine and rosin and tar. More turpentine is now made in North Carolina and Georgia than in all the rest of the world put together, and the distillation is conducted in the forest, saving all unnecessary transportation of refuse material. Twenty years ago, there was more spirits of turpentine distilled in Europe than in the United States, but the tide has now turned and Europe gets turpentine from America.

Honor to the Female Brave.

A Beautiful Silver Tankard with an appropriate inscription has been presented to Miss Sarah E. Rogers, of Richmond, Va., "for her presence of mind, courage, and fortitude, in saving the life of Joseph Robinson, caught in the machinery of the Virginia Woolen Factory, March 14th, 1848.

The powerful solvent capabilities of chloroform are now by experiment fully established. Caoutchouc, resin, copal, and gum-lac, bromine, iodine, the essential oils, &c., yield to its solvent powers. This property may it be believed, prove extensively of advantage in very many of the fine and useful arts.

The "Metalized India Rubber," made for the purpose of being placed under iron rails, where they have a bearing on iron or wood, with a view to diminish in the wear of engines and cars, is to be tried on the Stonington route, four miles of which will be laid with it by the 1st of May.

The wires of House's Telegraph has been struck across the North River two hundred feet above the water. Thus we shall now have two lines from this City to the South-west.

A merchant died recently at Hamburg, worth \$4,200,000 who began life without a penny. He could not have been very honest if he was so very rich.

The European Association for propagating the Roman Catholic faith in America have granted to the missions, this year, the large sum of \$211,410.

Some Cornish miners have proceeded to Chili, for the purpose of working the copper mines of that country,

No fewer than sixty coasting vessels are now owned by the aboriginal inhabitants of New-Zealand.

A cannon shot without legs travels faster than a caterpillar with lots of that same. It is because the caterpillar goes of its own accord, but the cannonshot is sent.

If a good name were purchaseable, how few would avail themselves of the luxury, if they had to pay ready money for it.

Mr. Crawford's beautiful statue of the Dying Indian Girl, will soon be shipped from Rome for New York.

Hugh H. Grant, Esq. of South Carolina, has in his possession a sample of rice grown on his father's plantation in 1809.

Navigation between this city, and Albany opened sixteen days earlier this year than the last.