



Recent Fires.

A fire broke out in the Sugar House at the corner of Broadway and Duane st., last Sabbath morning. We are sorry to add that one of the walls fell down, killing almost instantly one of the assistant engineers, Mr. George Kerr, and killing instantly Mr. Henry Fargis, foreman of No. 38. A great number were also severely wounded. No less than 47 fires occurred in our city last month, and some of them were very serious. New York has been called the city of fires; we have too many sheds and fugitive structures, and this is the cause of frequent fires.

A large Grist and Flour mill has been burnt down at Cohoes Falls, N. Y. Loss \$20,000.

On March the 28th, the Home Printworks at Central Falls, R. I., were the scene of a terrific explosion of a boiler, and ten persons lost their lives.

On March the 3rd, a most disastrous fire occurred at Watertown, N. Y., and much property destroyed and two lives lost.

A boiler lately exploded in Lewis Street, Boston, and killed Mr. McLaughlan the engineer, and scalded a workman.

The cotton factories at Amoskeag, N. H. were burnt down lately. The fire is said to have caught from some defect on the chimney.

A small satinet factory, situated about a mile and a half east of the village in Leicester, on the road to Worcester, Mass., took fire two weeks ago from friction in the picker, and was entirely consumed with most of its contents.

We might fill a number of pages with such disasters, but we have no feeling to dwell on such sad events. We point to these accidents and only say to our people be *more careful*, for we are convinced, that many accidents, though not all, are the result of carelessness.

Splendid Fire Engine.

Mr. Andrew Agnew, of Philadelphia, has lately built a most magnificent Fire Engine, named the Vigilant. The body is of highly polished American walnut, with pretty panelings, enriched by elaborate silver corner pieces and mouldings, and having centre pieces of rich and ornate design. The gallery baffles description. It presents the appearance of a great and gorgeous silver vase, tinted with gold. It is supported by four enfeoliated columns of choice workmanship, which, while they give the design no heaviness, remove the notion of mere tinsel or tawdriness. The wheels and arms are of polished hickory; and the levers are polished metal. The levers are worked from the ends and sides, by means of arms so adjusted that the members stand upon the ground. The levers fall upon metal spiral springs of which material also the hubs and axles are made; the hub, besides, forming and comprising the box. The water is let in at the bottom of the box; above which the valves are placed, and the side apertures for the reception of the hose and the discharge of water are said to be of a greatly improved character.

A Precious Volume.

A princely bequest has been made to the British Museum, by the Hon Thomas Grenville, of London, lately deceased. It consists of a rare and valuable collection of books, exceeding twenty thousand volumes, and valued at 100,000 pounds. Among them is a copy of the *Bibla Sacra Latina*, on vellum, the first book printed with moveable types. It was printed at Mentz in 1460-5, by Guttemburg and Faust. This edition is called the Mazarin Bible on account of a copy having been found in the library of Cardinal Mazarin. This is so rare that but four copies in vellum and fourteen on paper are known to exist, all of which are in public libraries.

Earthquake at Batavia.

Letters from Batavia, in the Island of Java, of Feb. 20, state that on the 16th, 17th, and 18th, shocks of earthquake were felt at Batavia, and in the regencies of Cheribon, Bonjoemak, Kaddock, Samarang, and Rambay. At Batavia, the towers of the church were a good deal shaken and that of the town-hall had taken a strong leaning to the left, whilst a cross in cast iron, which surmounted it was overthrown. In the town of Cheribon all the buildings except the stores, the walls of which are of great thickness, were so much injured as to threaten destruction, and oblige the inhabitants to seek refuge in the plains of the environs. At Parimang the residence of the Governor was thrown down, and all that it contained destroyed. Forty houses in the Chinese quarter shared the same fate, and seventeen inhabitants were crushed to death under the ruins. A great number of sugar and indigo manufactures in the open fields were destroyed. Intelligence from all points of new disasters was reaching Batavia, and the greatest alarm prevailed in that capital.

The Doom of our World.

The North British Review, says:—"What this change is to be, we dare not even conjecture, but we see in the heavens themselves some traces of destructive elements and some indications of their power. The fragments of broken planets—the descent of meteoric stones upon our globe—the wheeling comet welding their loose materials at the solar surface—the volcanic eruptions of our own satellite—the appearance of new stars and the disappearance of others are all foreshadowed of that impending convulsion to which the system of the world is doomed. Thus placed on a planet which is to be burnt up, and under heavens which are to melt away, thus treading as it were on the cemeteries, and dwelling on mausoleums of former worlds, let us learn the lessons of humanity and wisdom, if we have not already been taught in the school of revelation."

The Bonaparte Family.

The only surviving brother of the late Emperor Napoleon, Jerome, is we believe, now in France, having asked leave of Louis Philippe, some time since, to reside in the kingdom. He will be remembered as having married Miss Patterson of Baltimore, about 1803, and by that lady he left a son, now, we believe, living in Maryland. Jerome repudiated his wife, by direction of his brother, and afterwards married a German Princess. He was for sometime King of Westphalia.

Louis Napoleon son of the late King of Holland, Louis Bonaparte, and of Hortense, daughter of Josephine, lately escaped from prison in France, and has now returned there from England, on hearing of the Revolution.

A Fatal Carouse.

In the devastation and burning of the chateau of Neuilly some bandits rushed into the apartments, whilst others went to the cellars. The latter there found wine of all descriptions and a cask of rum, which they broke open. Some instants after they were all drunk, and then a terrific battle took place between them, their principal weapons being bottles. At length they fell to the ground overcome by intoxication or wounds. Meanwhile the men who went into the apartments ravaged and pillaged them completely, after which they set them on fire, and the whole building was soon in flames. A short time after, the men in the cellars were either burned to death or suffocated. On Sunday from one hundred to one hundred and twenty dead bodies were dug out.—*Journal des Debats.*

Tea Plants.

An enterprising citizen of Charleston, S. C., has just received from Canton, from an embassy to that country, six varieties of the seed of the Tea plant, together with directions for its culture. The seed resembles in some measure the small sized ground artichoke.

Steel.

Of all bodies steel is the strongest. It requires a force of 115,000 lbs. to tear asunder a tempered steel rod the area of which is one inch.

The Atmosphere never Dark on a Windy Night.

Several years since, says a writer in the Magazine of Natural History, when travelling by night in the mail coach, in the depth of winter, and during the absence of the moon, I was surprised to observe, that though dense clouds covered every part of the horizon, and not a single star could be seen, yet the night was far from being dark, and large objects near the road side were easily discerned. On expressing my surprise to the driver, he replied, "The wind is very high, and during a great many years that I have been upon this road I never knew it to be dark on a windy night." The observation was at that time new to me; but subsequent experience has convinced me that it was true.

Strange Phenomena.

A correspondent of the Buffalo Daily Express states that the water at Black Rock fell in one night, the 25th ult., three feet, and no evident cause for the same. At Niagara Falls on the same night, the water that fell over the Falls looked more like a mill dam than the mighty waters of Niagara River. On the night mentioned above, all the mills at the Falls were suspended for want of water, which had caused no little astonishment and well it might if the story is true.

Iron Convention.

The Iron Manufacturers' and Miners' State Convention met in Harrisburg, on Wednesday, last week. It was a very respectable and intelligent body. Delegates were in attendance from various states. A number of resolutions were passed, and Committees appointed to collect statistical information with regard to the Iron and Coal trade, the consumption of Agricultural products, &c.

The Woolly Horse.

The woolly horse caught on the Rocky Mountains and which has been exhibiting in some of our Southwestern Cities, is the very animal caught by Baron Munchausen, and which has the strange quality "that it can't live on land and dies in the water." It will soon visit this city and its coating of pitch and wool will no doubt be a subject of curious investigation. The above information is for the benefit of all those who love to study the wonders of gullibility.

Whitfield's Habits.

Whitfield's habits were singularly nice and cleanly, upon the principle that everything about a minister should be "spotless." He was known to say that he could not die easy if his gloves were out of place. He had the gentlemanly love of order, which required his table to be elegantly spread, even if only a loaf, or his favorite dish, a cow-heel, were to be seen upon it.

A New Way to Make Steamboats Swift.

A steamboat called the Dupont, in Philadelphia, which once had two of Loper's propellers in her, was wonderfully improved lately, by taking one of them out, and leaving the other in.

Query.—Would she not do better with both out.

Anti Assassin Shirt.

The Herald, a Spanish paper, states that a man had arrived at Madrid, "whose body bullets cannot enter." He proposed being publicly shot at by the soldiers of the garrison, and also by a machine of his own which lets off several muskets at the same time. He puts on a garment the tissue of which resists the entrance of any bullet.

The Baltimore Mechanics' Fair.

There is to be a grand Mechanics' Fair at Baltimore on the 17th of May next. Mr. Benson, the inventor of the new Rotary Engine is Superintendent. We shall notice this Fair again, and in the mean time bid the Maryland Mechanics get their models all bright and ready.

New Canal.

A new canal is contemplated from Buffalo to the canal dam below Black Rock, N. Y.—The object is to procure a full supply of water to the enlarged Erie Canal, independent of the mill privileges.

The word "apple" in the book of Genesis should have been translated "citron," according to Dr. Parkhurst.

Rome exports its rags and imports them manufactured into paper; exports its cows and oxen, and imports its butter and cheese; exports its raw silk, and imports it when manufactured; exports its raw wool, and imports it again the form of broadcloth; imports olive oil from Tuscany, and wax and honey from wherever she can get them.

Buffon, says the Journal de Reims, gives a raven's life as 200 years. The other day a gentleman captured one, round its neck was a silver plate, with an inscription in English:—"This raven, caught by Capt. Duncan of the Scotch Guards, in Garrison at Rheims, was set at liberty, Jan. 7, 1643."

A new machine for watering the streets, called Rough and Ready, has been invented in Philadelphia.

We want thousands here, why don't our City authorities put up hydrants with perforated nozzles to lay the dust. Broadway is sometimes like Sahara, in spite of the Croton.

There is a new boat nearly ready for action in this City for the North River trade. She has a stroke of 14 feet long, and her cylinder we believe, is scarcely three feet in diameter. Experience will test either its follies or fame. We are not upon the fence regarding it, although the builder is an eminent mechanic.

At Cologne, a suspension bridge is about to be thrown over the Rhine by French engineers, similar to that which crosses the Danube at Offen. It will rest on a single pillar in the middle of the stream—and is to cost 159,000 thalers.

The Cleveland Herald states that saleratus to the amount of 221 tons or 442,000 lbs., was shipped from that place by the canal last year. There are in Cleveland four manufactories of this article, all of which are doing a good business.

A Swan was caught last month, on the Monongahela River, by James McAnich.—It is pure white, three feet and a half high, and a very beautiful bird.

A number of students have been suspended from the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, N. Y., for initiating a pedlar by a moek ceremony of Odd Fellowship.

The Peace Society has issued a circular which terminates thus:—"Arbitration is friendly—wise—easy and cheap. War is fiendish—foolish—difficult and dear."

Some excellent sugar has been raised on the St. Johns River, Florida, by Col. McIntosh. One hundred and fifty barrels have sold for 5 cents per pound.

A glass Company has been chartered by the Legislature of Tennessee. An abundance of the best sand for glass manufacture has been found in that State.

The Jackson Committee at Washington, have adopted Mill's plan for a bronze equestrian statue of Gen. Jackson. It is to be made of the cannon captured by Gen. Jackson at New Fort Hamilton.

Mr. F. J. Wood lost his life recently on the Potomac. He went down to the bottom of the river in Captain Taylor's submarine apparatus and in fifteen minutes afterwards he was taken up dead.

M. Boussingault states in the *Annales de Chimie*, that experiments have shown that cattle fatten better on fodder steeped in water than when given to them dry.

Twenty-six thousand lashes were inflicted in the British Navy last year. Forty-eight was the highest number inflicted at any one time.

Bread is selling in England at a lower price than ever has been known; the best bread is 5½d. per quarter loaf.

A wag put the sign of a cutler one night on the watch house in New Orleans, and the people next morning read the plain fact above the door, "Blades put in here."

In China a man condemned to death can procure a substitute by paying about three hundred dollars.