



Extraordinary Occurrence.

During the period when the water was so low at Niagara Falls, the Table Rock was left so dry as to enable those who had the good fortune to be in the vicinity to go as far across the river above, as to be directly over the Termination Rock. This feat was accomplished, among others, by ladies.

The villagers of Chippawa, thought they had entirely lost their creek. Off the old Chippawa Fort, about 100 feet below water mark, was discovered a burning spring in the bed of the Niagara River, which some had the curiosity to enclose with an old potash kettle and gun barrel knitted therein, and succeeded in producing flame and an explosion. Several bayonets, muskets, swords, &c., have been picked up.

Easy way to Measure the Quantity of Oxygen in the Atmosphere.

Procure a glass tube about 12 or 15 inches long and half an inch in diameter open at one end and divided into a hundred equal parts.—Take then a small piece of phosphorus and put it on a piece of wood a little less in diameter than the tube and put this piece of wood or stick into a vessel of water and set fire to it, then cover the phosphorus with your tube so that the tube shall sit on the water without letting the atmosphere into it. When the combustion of the phosphorus ceases the water will have risen in the tube and will occupy the place of the oxygen consumed in combustion, and the division to which the water has reached will shew the number of parts of it in 100 parts of atmospheric air. This is not the most perfect method of testing the quantity of oxygen in the atmosphere, but it affords a pretty correct idea of it. The proportion of oxygen in the atmosphere is 21, nitrogen 79.

Phosphorescent Bodies.

Many bodies are phosphorescent, that is to say omit light, after they have been exposed to the sun or any shining source. Thus, oyster shells, which have been calcined with sulphur, shine in a dark place, after they have been exposed to the light, and certain diamonds do the same. So, too, during the process of slow decay light is very often emitted, as when wood is mouldering, or meat is becoming putrescent. The source of the luminousness in these cases seems to be the same as in ordinary combustion, that is, the burning away of carbon and hydrogen, under the influence of atmospheric air: but, in certain cases, the functions of life give rise to an abundant emission of light, as in fire-flies and glow-worms, and there is reason to believe that the phenomenon is to a great extent subject to the volition of the animal.

Genial is the Soil of Sorrow.

Genial, almost to a miracle, is the soil of sorrow, wherein the smallest seed of love, timely falling, becometh a tree, in whose foliage, the birds of blessed song lodge, and sing unceasingly. And the doubts of God's goodness, whence are they? Rarely from the weary and burdened—from those broken in the practical service of grief and toil; but from the theoretic students at ease in their closets of meditation, treated themselves, most gently by the legislation of that universe which they criticise with a melancholy so profound.

A Splendid Steamboat.

A steamboat named the Sultana, was lately launched at Cincinnati, which is stated to be the largest that ever floated on the Western waters. Her extreme length is 306 feet; extreme breadth 80 feet; 9 feet hold; 2 engines 10 feet stroke, 30 inch cylinder; 6 boilers; 1 engine expressly for lifting freight; and one doctor, or supply engine, with all the late improvements, driving three large bilge pumps, and in case of fire working two engines: she will carry 1800 tons.

New Balloon Ship.

Mr. M. Von Ruyter, a Dutch engineer, has invented a new Aeronautic Ship which rises into the air from the impetus of its own working, with a weight of 200,000 pounds, with immense rapidity, and can be steered at will. Mr. Von Ruyter resides in Rotterdam, and exhibited a short time ago a working model 1 ell 27 inches in breadth and 83 ells 14 inches in length.

The above is from the London Mining Journal, and it may be that the Dutch papers want to frighten uncle John, like Napoleon did during the period that he threatened to invade him not only by his Bologne fleet but by his balloons. Holland, however, has always been famous for flying. We find as far back as 1673, the *Mercure Hollandois de l'an* describing an affair that occurred at Ratisbone. Charles Bernoven, surgeon, a celebrated flyer, flew from the top of a tower and lost his life. We prefer "flights of fancy" to all aeronautic flights whatever.

A Venerable and Valuable Present.

Mr. Custis, of Arlington, has presented to his son-in-law, Capt. R. E. Lee, of the U. S. Engineers, (an officer whose brilliant services in the Mexican war have elicited the praise of all the Generals,) a sword with the following inscriptions. "The gift of General Washington, to George W. P. Custis; 10th of January, 1799. Presented by George W. P. Custis, to Capt. R. E. Lee, U. S. A., the 22d., of February, 1845."

This old sabre is peculiarly valuable from its being the only sword that Washington ever presented in his life-time, and with his own hand, to a human being.

When presented by the Chief to his adopted son, (then an officer of cavalry,) in 1799, it was attended with this injunction. "This sword, sir, you are never to draw, but in a just cause, or in defence of your country."

Curious Manuscript of the Hebrew Bible.

There is in the royal library, a curious manuscript, containing the whole Hebrew bible, which belonged to a synagogue in Jerusalem. A very celebrated Rabbi, who was born in Spain, in the year 1194, built a synagogue in Jerusalem, and in that synagogue, was preserved with the utmost veneration till that city was taken by the Emperor Solim in 1517. The manuscript was then seized by a Turkish officer, who carried it to Aleppo, where, in 1683, it came into the hands of the celebrated D'Arvieux, and it was afterwards purchased by an English gentleman, who brought it home to enrich his own country. In this manuscript the Psalms and Proverbs are written in hemistiches, as Hebrew poetry should be. Though it has suffered by erasures, it has still many various readings, and several of consequence; in particular it has two verses in one place which are clearly genuine, though the Masorah has pronounced them spurious.

Mahomedanism and Literature.

The first newspaper in all the Turkish dominions was started by an American Missionary some 17 years since, and printed in the English language, for foreign residents, who explained it to others, and thus afforded a sample to the Government and nation. The only newspaper now printed in the Turkish language was originated and is conducted chiefly by an Englishman.

There are no newspapers in Syria or Persia, and in Egypt, the Barbary States, and other countries including 40,000,000 speaking the Arabic language, there is but one newspaper in the native tongue, and but three or four in the French or English, showing that there is nothing in Mahomedanism favorable to general improvement.

Honey Moon.

The word honeymoon is derived from an ancient Teutonic custom, of drinking methylen at marriages. It was a drink made of honey, and flavored with mulberries.—Amongst the Teutonic nobility, the marriage festival lasted a lunar month, during which time this drink was well supplied and hence the festival received the name of *honah moon*. Alaric the Goth is said to have died on his wedding night from a too great indulgence in methylen.

Steamboat Explosions.

The Cincinnati Commercial publishes a communication from Capt. Haldeman, the popular commander of the steamboat Yorktown on the subject of explosions on board of steam boats, containing some interesting and instructive statements. The Captain bears strong testimony to the efficacy of Evans' Patent Safety Guard in preventing explosions. He says, that during the eight years the Safety Guard has been in use, it has been in operation upon some one hundred and twenty-five steamboats, and out of that number only two collapsed their flues, which was caused by the lever being fastened down in such a way as to prevent it from going into operation, thereby cheating the object of its invention. Further, the Captain says: "I am certain that it is the most valuable invention that has ever yet been invented to prevent explosions and one that can be relied on, and no high pressure steamboat ought to be without them." And again, he says: "So sure and so confident am I of the safety of this invention from explosion, that I would be perfectly willing to stand over a set of boilers, and defy the artifice of man, or the ingenuity of the world to blow them up, if they were well supplied with Evans' Safety Guard."

An Indian Cairn.

On the road to Oregon about one hundred miles west of Fort Laramie there is a pile of stones about 200 feet high, and three hundred feet in circumference at the base. The stones vary in size from the size of ones thumb to that of a water pail, all placed as regular as masonry. This could not have been a freak of nature. They must have been piled up by men to commemorate some great event—but by whom and for what purpose who can tell?—A short distance from this pile are two large rocks about twenty feet apart and 50 feet high. The opposing surfaces show that they were once united, but thrown apart from some convulsion of nature.

Independence Rock, on the same route is an immense pile, covering 20 acres of ground and is 3000 feet high. On one side it is broken and falls off. From the top you can see hundreds of miles.

On the side of this rock next the road are ten thousand names of men or emigrants who were going to Oregon.

In the top of it is a large hole or reservoir, that will hold six or eight barrels of water. There are also holes in the side that form complete rooms. On the walls of these rooms are written a great many names. At the foot of the rock runs the Sweet Water river a beautiful clear stream.

How to Clothe.

Persons are apt to have quite too much clothing. Lord Bacon says, "A great store of clothes, either upon the bed or the back, relaxes the body; and many have discovered, by sad experience, that it has drained the purse. It is one of the evils of civilization, that not only luxuries in eating and drinking are required, but also a superabundance of clothing; and that too, generally, of an expensive kind. Its abundance renders people less hardy and more liable to disease. Infants who take no exercise, require to be clad more than children who can run about in the open air. It is ludicrous to see children from eight to a dozen years of age, rigged out with woolen shirts, drawers, thick stockings, and boots, fur caps, over coats, mittens, comforters, muffs, and tippets, and the whole paraphernalia which characterizes one of our city urchins. Better, far better, would it be to begin life with the lightest clothing. Then would thicker clothes be more useful in old age."

The Player and the Preacher

Garrick being once in Dr. Stenhouse's library, asked him:—"What books he had on the desk before him?"—"Only the Bible and Prayer-book," replied the player, "why, you tossed them backwards, and turned the leaves as carelessly, as if they were those of a day-book and ledger." The Doctor was wise enough to see the force of these observations, and ever after avoided the faults they were designed to reprove."

Southern Coal.

The Mobile Tribune says, a letter has been received from Capt. Liot, of the West India steamer Dee, dated at Havanna, giving a very favorable account of the Tuscaloosa coal which was taken on board at Cat Island for experiment. He states that the coal is 4 per cent better than any yet used on the steamers of that line. This fact, the Tribune says, will doubtless lead speedily to extensive operations for keeping a supply of coal at Mobile.

Winter Killed Wheat.

A correspondent of the Ohio Cultivator says that his late sown wheat on corn ground was much "winter killed," that is, thrown out by frost which he chiefly remedied by using a heavy roller pressing the half-killed roots with the ground which caused them to vegetate. Such wheat yielded about twenty bushels per acre.

Independence Bell.

The old State House bell, which rung out in merry peals when the declaration of independence was announced, and which was accidentally cracked about three years ago in an attempt to ring it, is to be deposited in the hall of Independence in Philadelphia. It will be placed upon a suitable pedestal, under a glass case, and will remain a permanent fixture of the venerated room.

A Prophecy.

A celebrated rock in Ireland, known as the rock of Cashel, recently fell to the ground, after defying the storms that have beat upon it since the deluge. An ancient prophecy was connected with this rock, the substance of which was, that a great revolution would occur in England the same year the rock should fall.

A Matrimonial Courtesy.

Friend Grace, it seems had a very fine horse and a very poor one. When seen riding the latter he was asked the reason; it turned out that his better half had taken the good one. "What!" said the bantering bachelor, "how comes it you let your mistress ride the better horse?" The only reply was, "Friend when thou be'st married, thou'll know."

New Mode of Navigation.

The Milwaukee (Wisconsin) Sentinel, of the 17th inst., has the following:—A Prairie schooner loaded with forty barrels of flour, drawn by six horses, arrived in town yesterday, and went into store here.

It was said of the late Mr. Bell, of the Chancery Bar (England,) that he wrote three several hands, one of which no one could read but himself, another which his clerk could read and he could not: and another which nobody could read.

A colossal statue is preparing for erection at Haarlem, in honor of a citizen of that place, Laurent Kostar, to whom the Dutch ascribe the invention of printing.

A jury in Philadelphia has found a verdict of \$1000 in favor of a young lady, for a breach of promise; and a jury in Mass., have given \$1000 damages in favor of a gentleman at Bellow's Falls against a young lady, for a similar breach of contract.

Mr. Hotchkiss of Brooklyn, who was almost murdered by Baily has recovered, but has lost the power of speech and memory.

The Christian Citizen says that the nucleus of the Anti Corn Law League in England was composed of seven Scotchmen and one Irishman.

An earthquake occurred lately in Mexico, and all the potatoes and pancakes were swallowed up in the market. The ninth regiment of Uncle Sam's Infantry were stationed close by.

The Troy and Burlington Telegraph line has been working for several days with a battery often cups and using spring water.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, recently erected at Brooklyn, N. Y., cost the modest sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The oxide of tin has been discovered in New Jersey.