



Late News from Europe.

The America, the new steamer of the Cunard line, arrived at Boston on Tuesday evening last from Liverpool, making the passage in 10 days and 8 hours. She made the passage to Halifax in 8 days and 20 hours and to Boston in 10 days, having been detained 8 hours in the fog. This is the quickest passage that ever has been made to America.

By every steamer that has arrived for the last five weeks from Europe, we have expected to hear of war having commenced in Ireland, and the Austrians driven out of Italy. Neither of these things have yet happened. The British minister, Bulwer, the novelist, has been dismissed from the Spanish court. Russia is growing like a Spitzbergen bear, and France is crowing fierce against Austria, while Uncle John Bull is showing his teeth, all have got up the snapping turtle spirit, thinking to get up a little of the honors of Palo Alto and Cerro Gordo, on the other side of the water, but if they be wise they will cling close to their chimney cheeks.

John Mitchell, the Protestant Irish Repealer, has been found guilty of sedition, by a packed Jury, and sentenced to transportation for 14 years. The sentence was carried into immediate execution, and he is now on his way to Bermuda, to be placed in one of the convict hulks there.

Oil from Tar and Pitch.

According to the present mode of distilling tar, it is placed in a still and heat applied to distill off the oil until about 35 or 40 per cent of the tar is passed over, when the residue in the still is obtained as pitch. But if tar is submitted to a higher degree of temperature in distilling than is now employed more oil is obtained, and the residue is coke or a fuel similar to coal obtained in the still. From pitch oil also was obtained by a new invention of Mr. Clift, an English gentleman. To do this, he employs iron cylinders seven feet long and two feet in diameter, with a door at each end and set horizontally with furnaces in the usual manner. The tar is placed in the cylinders and the heat gradually raised. The vapors pass off through a pipe fixed in the top of a cylinder into a condenser where they are condensed into oil. After this first common heat applied to the tar, the heat is raised much higher and the residue in the cylinder is converted into coke, or if the latter process is stopped at a certain point, a portion of the undecomposed bitumen will remain with the coke, and the residue will have nearly the same properties of coal, (something interesting to Geologists.) Common gas retorts answer all the purposes set forth in the discovery. Sometimes a little saw dust is mixed with the pitch and the tar. From both pitch and tar, or a mixture of both, the invention relates to the extracting of a greater quantity of oil by applying a greater degree of heat to these substances. This discovery may lead to others in the same field. To our friends in North Carolina, it will be somewhat interesting. A patent has been granted in England for the discovery.

The Last Machine.

We have received a letter from "C. of Gardiner, Me." in answer to the letter of W. M. Davis, of Portland, Me. Mr. C. says that he indulged in no remarks against Mr. Davis, and only spoke of the invention of Mr. Webber. He states that he has seen Mr. Webber's machine and considers it to be good. We would publish the letter, but the controversy has become personal and would be of no interest to our readers. Mr. C. disclaims the least borrowing from Mr. Davis on the part of Mr. Webber.

Too True.

Somebody, who writes more truthfully than poetically, says; an angel without money, is not so much thought of now-a-days, as a devil with a bag full.

Wire Fences.

We are glad to see some attention paid to wire fences. We are positive they will yet supersede all others. The wire used for this purpose is No. 11, and it is prepared by boiling the wire in linseed oil heated as hot as it will bear, for half an hour. The wire is then taken off and hung in the sun until it is dried. This process is repeated three times. The object is to make the wire tough and render it impervious to rust.

Put up good solid posts, six rods apart. The first wire will be one foot and a half from the ground; the second six inches from that, the third 8 inches, the fourth 12 inches and the fifth 16 inches—making the fence five feet high. Fasten them to the posts either by driving in strong spikes, and making one turn of the wire round it, or by driving in a short stout staple; when completed, with a heavy plough turn some three or four furrows on each side towards the fence; but when that cannot be done well put the first wire some four inches lower. If properly put up, the wire will not sag, but to give it a better finish, take some sound poles and drive them into the ground one rod apart, and saw into them perhaps an inch opposite each wire—laying the wire into it, and drive a shingle nail to keep the wire to its place.

It is calculated that 26 cents will pay for one rod of wire fence, and it can easily be made to stop hogs from going through. If plants of the beach tree be planted along the inside, in a few years one of the finest hedges will spring up, if it is kept constantly pruned.

Telegraph Race.

A remarkable telegraph race occurred in this city last week, when the Whig National Convention was in session in Philadelphia. The Jersey City wires were monopolized by the Whig Press, and our other papers had to bite their thumbs for news. But science was not to be baffled for news by a monopoly, so they despatched a message via Albany and away round by Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburg, to Philadelphia. In fifteen minutes, over the same route, an answer was returned announcing the result of the second balloting for candidates for the Presidency. It is just as easy to stop the lightning as the enterprise of some of our papers.

Principles of Zoology.

A work from the pen of the celebrated Professor Agassiz, touching the structure, development, distribution, and natural arrangements of the races of animals, living and extinct, has just been published, and is for sale by L. Colby, & Co., 122 Nassau street, this city. The work is one designed for the use of Schools and Colleges, and we have no doubt but what it will be gradually introduced as a text book.

American Journal of Agriculture and Science.

The June number of this valuable Agricultural Journal, published and conducted by N. Bement, Albany, N. Y. is full of exceedingly useful and interesting matter. It is an excellent magazine for all those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Marriage and Health.

In comparing the ages of the married and single, the ages of the single were computed from the age of twenty-two years; that of the married, from the age of sixteen in the female, and seventeen in the male, the lowest age at which any married person died. The calculations give as the
Mean age at death of the married 57, 54 years
" " " Single 42, 18 years
showing a difference in favor of the married to the extent of about fifteen years.

The difference was still greater between the mean ages of the married and single males—being for the married males 56, 69 years, and for the single males, only 38, 22 years.

American Institute.

The managers of the American Institute for the next annual Fair to be held in October, have resolved to award apprentices five hundred dollars as premiums for their handy works. This is a move in the right direction and must meet the favorable views of all.

A Deadly Instrument.

A Mr. Sharp, of Natchez, Miss. has invented what is called, a "breach-loading, and self-capping rifle." It is capable of carrying fifty caps at once in a side-tube, which are pressed down by the action of a spring, and presented to the percussion hammer one after another as the discharge is made, without any other power than the throwing out of a crooked lever which plays over, and when pressed up covers the guard.

The action of this lever is very simple.—To throw it out from the guard to a position perpendicular to the barrel, causes the steel breach piece of the barrel to sink down so that the eye can run through the entire hollow of the gun, at the same time throwing under the hammer over the priming nipple, a cap. The cartridge is now pushed in by the fingers at the breach, the lever instantly drawn up close over the guard, by which the breach piece rises up, securely closing the barrel and clipping the end of the cartridge, and the moving priming nipple rises also in position, bringing up the cap on its top. It is now cocked and fired—when instantly throwing out the lever, the exploded cap falls out, another one moves down and the breach piece sinks in readiness to receive the cartridge.

The fifty caps will keep up a deadly stream of fire for five minutes, when a pause of from one to two minutes will be required to place fifty new caps in the exhausted tube, when fifty more discharges may take place, giving the weapon a terrible capacity.

First Female Member of the A. A. A. S.

Miss Maria Mitchell, of Nantucket, discoverer of the Comet which bears her name, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, at their last general meeting. We believe that this is the first time such an honor has been conferred on any lady in this country; and a similar honor had been conferred on but two ladies in Europe, Miss Caroline Herschell, the sister and assistant of the late Sir William Herschell, in his astronomical labors, and Mrs Somerville, the commentator on La Place, were some years ago elected honorary members of the Astronomical Society of London.

Distribution of the Loaves and Fishes.

In the House of Representatives on the 5th inst. Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, said that in the last Congress there were only twenty working men—persons not lawyers; and that the latter class had a greater amount of influence than any other. He desired that farmers and working men should receive their full share of the public offices; and, in order to accomplish the object, he moved that the offices be apportioned among the several States, according to the ratio of representation.

Gutta Percha Boats.

At Seacombe, a No. 1 pilot boat, built of gutta percha, has been tested. It is seventeen feet and a half long, and though nearly filled with water, and having four men on its gunwale, kept its buoyancy. It weighs one hundred and ninety pounds, and sustains a pressure of fifteen hundred. It not only answers the purpose of a pilot boat, but is also convertible into a life boat.

This substance must make an excellent life boat, and before we saw the above account taken from one of our exchanges, we had thought of calling attention to the feasibility of this application. The toughness, elasticity, and lightness of this material, for the purpose of boat building, is unquestionable. The price is one dollar per pound, and 30 pounds must make a boat of a moderate size. The old gutta percha can be sold at a reduced price.

Patent Office Report.

In the U. S. Senate on the 5th inst. a resolution was offered by Mr. Badger, ordering the printing of 20,000 extra copies of the Patent Office Report for the use of the Senate. The Report of the Examiners was published last year by the 1st of March.

Stave Dressing Machine.

Our readers are requested to read the advertisement in another column which pertains to stave dressing.

A new kind of silk worm has been discovered near Guiehen Bay, in Van Dieman's Land, and is said to be much superior to the Chinese silk worms, as a greater number of layers are given to the cocoon; and space is left in the form of a crescent, through which the insect, when fit for flight, emerges without injuring the silk.

The British government intends to encourage the emigration of military pensioners to British North America, in order to colonize the land bordering on the United States, and a detachment of 45 pensioners, accompanied by their wives and children, have sailed from the Thames for Quebec to commence colonizing.

Last week, the steamboat Lawrence, a new flat bottomed boat, drawing only fifteen inches of water, and built expressly for the navigation of the Merrimack river, arrived at the new city of Lawrence on that river, with about fifty passengers. This is the first steamboat that ever arrived at that place.

In relation to the subject of erecting a monument to De Witt Clinton, at Albany, N. Y. the Evening Journal says, the whole matter appears to be in a proper train for efficient prosecution and very satisfactory consummation. When are the Albany folks going to raise the Mills Monument at the Capitol Park?

Very productive mines of quicksilver are said to have been discovered in Upper California. We would attach more credit to the story if it did not come so opportunely to satisfy those who might otherwise grumble at the treaty.

An editor away out in the Great West, wishing to give a faint idea of a contemporary's meanness, says that his soul is so small, that it might dance a horn pipe in a muskito's watch fob!

Mehemet Ali has bequeathed his beard to Lady Stanhope. The lady wished a lock of his hair, but being bald-headed, the beard suggested itself to his mind as a good substitute.

The Belgian Government has offered a premium of ten per cent upon all the cotton manufactures sold out of Belgium. This is to encourage foreign exportation. The rest of the inhabitants must pay the tax.

Two fishermen lately caught at Milwaukee in their nets some 10 miles from the shore, the largest trout ever seen in those parts. It measured 3 feet 11 inches in length, and 45 inches in girth, and weighed fifty-five pounds.

Ten years ago, the trade between New York and Texas, was confined to a single schooner, now there is a line of ships constantly employed.

The Copper ore taken from Judge Gamble's mine in Missouri, yields it is said 40 per cent of pure copper. \$68,000 worth has already been extracted.

The sales of articles and Patent Rights, at the Mechanics Fair, held at Baltimore is reported to have amounted to about 15,000 dollars.

The journeymen brickmakers are on a strike against the new process of making six bricks at a time. There is no use for them to contend against fate.

The rates upon the telegraph, between Wheeling and Baltimore, have been reduced to 45 cents for ten words, and 3 cents a word for all over ten.

New York is the largest and dirtiest city in the Union. The streets present fine beds for planting potatoes after a shower.

A resolution has been adopted in the House of Representatives to remove the lantern and pole from the dome of the Capitol.

The overseers of the poor in Bangor, Me., are getting together a library for the use of the inmates of the almshouse of that city.

General Taylor, and General Cass are candidates for the Presidency of the United States. The planet Mars is in the ascendant.