



The Golden Land.

A short time ago, the most flattering accounts were received in this city from California about the mountains of gold and the valleys flowing with silver. Some believed it was a joke, while others believed it to be a "hue and cry" for some speculative purpose, and to the latter implication we must plead guilty. We believed that the accounts received here a short time ago about vessels being deserted by their crews and houses by their inhabitants, who had proceeded to the El Dorado valley, was all a hoax or something worse. But it seems, after all, that Madam Rumor sometimes tells true tales. The golden hills of California it seems are not imaginary elevations, but real *bona fide* treasure houses.—Chaps that go there can jink out the yellow dust almost by saying "open sesame." The President in his Message to Congress has confirmed the extraordinary fugitive accounts heretofore received, and recommends the Sub Treasury to be extended to our new territory as a place of Mintage and deposit, a good recommendation. To the United States of America now belongs the most valuable metal regions and the most fertile lands in the whole world. We have all the natural advantages to make our nation the richest and most powerful on the globe. But with all these natural advantages what would we be as a nation, if our citizens were not intelligent and enterprising? The President in his Message, points to the late war with Mexico to demonstrate the influence of our institutions in raising up an instantaneous army, but it is the people who make the *Institutions—the Institutions* do not make them. Mexico is a Republic, but what are her people in comparison with ours.

We hope that the gold and silver that is about to flow into the treasury of our nation, will not be the means of corrupting or enervating our people. Rome was mistress of the world until her citizens drank their beverages from golden bowls. We therefore wish better fortune to our potatoe diggers than our gold diggers, as we consider that land to be the Golden Land, which presents the greatest number of fields waving with golden harvests. But it is really wonderful to behold the mania among our citizens caused by the California gold discoveries. Every twentieth person we meet in the street is bound for California, bag and baggage. Seven vessels left this port on one day this week, bound for the gold region, with some hundreds of passengers. It is said there is as much gold in California as will enrich all the inhabitants of the United States. The passion for going to California is not confined to a few reckless young men—men of capital are going off in droves and the brokers in Wall street are dropping their merchandize in bills to speculate in the real dust. Over \$30,000 worth of it was deposited in the Philadelphia Mint on Saturday last, and bags of the dust are pouring in from all quarters.

The Cholera.

The Cholera has at length reached our shores, but we are grateful that it is in so mild a form. One vessel from Havre had seven deaths on the passage, and a number are in the Quarantine Hospital. But there is nothing to fear—it is of a less deadly form and there will not be so many victims as there were by the ship fever last year. But one case has as yet occurred in our city, and there are no fears of its ravages. The deaths that have occurred at the Quarantine Hospital, were those of emigrants, whose physical condition made them fit subjects for the disease.

There are no new cases since the first arrival, and it may be, that there will be none. Good food, cleanliness and proper ventilation are the bulwarks of health, and there need be no fears of the cholera when these bulwarks are erected. In England and Scotland, by proper attention to cleanliness the disease has been very mild.

LITERARY NOTICES.

Holden's Dollar Magazine.

The January number of this popular monthly is at a premium, as we predicted it would be. It contains something like 16 or 18 engravings of every description, among which we can only mention Cole's Painting of Genesee Falls; Dr. William Turner, the Chrono Thermal Practitioner; a Portrait of Louis Blanc, by Count d'Orsay; a full length Portrait of Horace Greeley, hat, boots and all; the Atheneum, Manchester, England, and some half dozen satirical portraits. There are articles from Horace Greeley, Park Benjamin, Augustine Duganne, M. H. C. Hosmer, William Wallace, C. W. Holden and others. We presume this beautiful No. will secure at least 10,000 additional names for the Holden, as no family will wish to lose so much variety and worth for one dollar. Cheaper than the cheapest and better than the best, our Blackwood will still continue the favorite of the people and prove conclusively that literature can be good as well as cheap. The highest compliment we can pay Mr. Holden is to say that his is the most popular monthly ever published in the world.

We have since writing the above, received vol. 2 of Holden's from July to December 1848. It is exquisitely bound in muslin, gilt edged and faced, and is sent by mail at \$1.25 per copy or three copies for \$3. New subscribers should not fail of obtaining one of them.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

This splendid work is pronounced by all to be the best Dictionary of the English language which has ever been published. It meets with ready sale in all countries where it has been introduced and the most talented of English authors have pronounced it as truly the standard Dictionary of the age. Published at Springfield, Mass. by G. & C. Merriam, who are owners of the copy right and to whom orders should be addressed; price single copy \$6. See advertisement on another page.

The Water Cure Journal and Herald of Reforms.

This is a Magazine Published by Fowler & Wells, No. 131 Nassau st. N. Y., gentlemen who publish a great number of excellent works, because they are useful. The Water Cure Journal is edited by J. Shew, M. D. an able and scientific gentleman, who knows well how to treat his subject.

Kanlett's Architect.

No. 5 Vol. 2 of this splendid work has been issued. We have always spoken in the highest terms respecting this beautiful work. The present number contains three designs for cottages with sections and full specifications, and should be in the possession of every man who designs to build a cottage, and who does not. The literary matter too is always chaste and of a highly dignified character.

Berford's World as it Moves.

No. 3 of this weekly Magazine is a great number. It is a splendid and a cheap work. The original articles are able and the selections capital. It should be in every family.

Worcester Mechanics Fair.

We are indebted to Mr. P. W. Taft, superintendent of the Worcester County (Mass.) Mechanics Association, for a copy of the reports of their first exhibition held in Worcester, last September. In looking over this Report, we were much pleased to observe the care exercised by the Committee to give as much information and explanation about each article exhibited, as possible. We have received no report of any other Fair, that contains so much useful information in this respect.

The Genesee Farmer.

We perceive that this valuable monthly Magazine has attained to the end of its 9th volume, and will commence a new volume with the new year. We know of no work better conducted and afforded to subscribers for so small amount, as the Genesee Farmer, no farmer in this State should want it and there is not one who cannot pay for it.

The President's Message was brought from Baltimore, in four minutes less than three hours, being the quickest time ever made between the two cities.

To make a cheap Endless Chain Pump.

Take two pine plank, (any other durable wood, such as butternut, or cherry will answer,) 1½ inches thick and 5 inches wide, joint them straight—take a half round and work a half hollow in each of them, 5-8 of an inch in depth, so that when placed together the bore will be 1-4 of an inch in diameter for two feet and a half from the bottom, the remainder or upper part to be made a size larger, that the chain and valves may move freely. Make a spout, of a board two feet long, six in width, and 4 deep; place this spout in the curb, 17 inches from the bottom, and with the top of your pump tube neatly fitted in this spout. Let the pump run so low that the water will never settle below it, by at least a foot—nail a board on the back side of the pump for it to rest upon at the bottom, and for the greater convenience in fixing the wheel and the spout, let it stand near one side of the well. Place a wheel, made of plank one foot in diameter, with six or eight crotched irons, driven into its circumference, to keep the chain from slipping, with axle-tree and crank on the top of the curb, one edge of the wheel to be exactly over the edge of the pump. Calculate how many feet of chain it will take to go over the wheel, passing seven or eight inches below the bottom of the pump, then up through the pump to the wheel again. The chain may be made of horse, trace, or halter chain, cut apart once in 2½ feet and united by a link or a piece of iron with the middle straight, to receive the leather valves, with rings bent at each end to connect the pieces of chains, the straight part to be two and a half inches, that the valves may have a little play. The leather should be thick hard sole leather, cut into circular pieces rather smaller than the bore of the pump, and two of these pieces—one of which should be about two thirds of the size of the other, and placed the lowest of the two—are put on the straight part of the S, these connected with the chains, and it is ready for use.

The chain should not run within 12 or 18 inches of the bottom of the well, as it will otherwise rile the water in its movements, and there should be a thick piece of round hard wood placed on the front of the lower part of the pump to prevent the chain from wearing that as it passes in the bottom.

A chain made of stout wire made into links of two inches in length, the pieces for the leather valves being of the same, will answer very well.

The two pieces of plank for the pump tube, after worked out as above, should be permanently nailed together and painted. The pump can be easily repaired, all the parts being simple in their construction, and the whole light and easily removed, if necessary so to do.

Coolness in Danger.

There is no class of men who require to be more cool in danger, than the engineers who run locomotives. They should possess intrepidity without rashness, and generally speaking they are not without those qualities. The necessity of being possessed of these qualities was never more apparent to us than in the account which we read in the Philadelphia Ledger two weeks ago, of a locomotive which was detached from the Philadelphia train at New Brunswick, and left in charge of the fireman, for the purpose of being placed in the engine house. The fireman, it appears, in backing the engine, came in so rapidly that the speed could not be checked until it came in contact with the rear wall of the building which was much broken by the collision. The falling of the broken wall led the fireman to think that the building was about to come down upon him, whereupon he threw the machinery in forward motion and jumped from the engine to save himself. The engine under a heavy head of steam instantly started forward and ran with great speed toward the railroad bridge, the draw of which was off, and the engine was precipitated into the canal, with a tremendous crash, which destroyed it.

If the locomotive had been in charge of the engineer, he being used to command and possessing self confidence, he would have run with the engine—and not run himself, leaving it to its own guidance.

Ship Building in the United States.

The amount built for the year, ending June 30, 1848, as we learn from the Boston Journal, was 316,076 tons, viz:—254 ships and barques, 174 brigs, 701 schooners, 547 sloops and canal boats, and 175 steamboats. From 1815 to 1848 there have been built 31,616 vessels of all descriptions, whose aggregate tonnage was 3,909,149. Average 29½ years about 105,000 tons per year. In 1848, 110 more ships and barques were built than in any other year.—From 1801 to 1807, the tonnage built in the United States amounted to 774,922 tons, being an average per year of 110,703 tons.

Singular Effects of Attraction.

The Edinburgh Journal of Sciences has a very interesting paper, by Dr. Hancock, on the motions that result from merely mixing a few drops of alcohol with a small phial of Laurel Oil. To exhibit this singular phenomenon, which seems to bear some analogy with the motions of the planetary orbs, the drops of alcohol should be introduced at different intervals of time. A revolving or circular motion instantly commences in the oil, carrying the alcoholic globules through a series of mutual attractions and repulsions, which will last for many days. The round bodies, which seem to move perfectly free through the fluid turning in a small eccentric curve at each extremity of their course, passing each other rapidly without touching. In the course of his experiments Dr. Hancock observed particles of the fluid to separate in large globular portions; these commence a similar revolution, and the smaller ones quitted their course and revolved about the larger, while the latter still pursue their gyrations after the manner of primary planets and their secondaries.

Manganese.

The Monticello Watchman mentions that Mr. Benjamin Kile, of Liberty, recently discovered a large quantity of this mineral on his farm, while ditching a swamp. He has had it analyzed by Mr. Chilton, of New-York. The ore contains 68 per cent of the hydrated peroxide of manganese—12 per cent less than the best found in our country, and equal we believe, to the best found in Europe. It lies so near the surface, that it can be procured at a cost not exceeding one dollar per ton.

Axe Factory.

The Axe manufactory of Mr. Simmonds at Cohoes, N. Y. turns out about one thousand dozen axes every month and can scarcely supply the demand at that rate. Mr. Simmonds' axes have long been famous. This is owing to great experience and care in the execution and the employment of the of the best material in their manufacture.

At Madison, Morris County, N. J., there is said to be a cider mill which consumes 1200 bushels of apples per day. The apples are not ground or broken by squeezing between nuts as in the common cider mill, but they are cut into very thin slices by sharp knives around two revolving cylinders, and then pressed in a machiae, from which the juice comes out entirely free from the pulp and other things which are found in new cider at the old mills—the cider returning its sweetness a longer time.

An interesting Scientific acquisition has just been made in Europe says "Galignani," by M. Andraud, the engineer so well-known by his works and experiments on compressed air. At the shop of a dealer in second-hand articles, he discovered and purchased the electrifying machine still, after a lapse of nearly 80 years, in an excellent state of preservation, of Benjamin Franklin, which is supposed to have been made at Philadelphia.

A quantity of good tea, equal to that raised in China, was raised in Brazil last year. Specimens of both the black and green have been exhibited at Washington and pronounced by judges to be excellent.

The ancients consecrated the rose to Harpocrates, the god of silence, and therefore often placed it in their rooms for the receiving of guests—a quiet hint, we think, to modern fashionable.

The Virginia Iron Works, Wheeling, turn out about 1000 kegs of very superior nails per week.