



The Inauguration and the Message.

Zachary Taylor is now President of the United States. He was inaugurated on last Monday at the Capitol, which was crowded with innumerable visitors from every part of our country. His message is brief, clear and manly. Its import is "to be guided by the constitution, administer the laws impartially, to make honesty, capacity and fidelity indispensable requisites to the bestowal of office." The following gentlemen compose his cabinet, and let us hope and pray that his administration may be peaceful prosperous and happy:

John M. Clayton, of Delaware, Secretary of State; Wm. M. Meredith, of Pennsylvania, Secretary of Treasury; Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, Secretary of the Home Department; Wm. B. Preston, of Virginia, Secretary of the Navy; George W. Crawford, of Georgia, Secretary of War; Jacob Collamer, of Vermont, Postmaster General; Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, Attorney General.

A Great Telegraphic Enterprize.

Messrs. Beach, proprietors of the New York Sun, have negotiated for a line of Telegraph, soon to be erected, from Washington to the Sun's editorial room, and from Boston to the same centre. The object of the enterprize is to get the news more correct than by the present telegraphic companies, and to get it at all times, untrammelled by any other kind of business on the wires, but that of newspaper literature. This is the greatest undertaking on record, we believe, connected with newspaper enterprize; and, what is very generous, other papers are invited to share the news on exceedingly moderate terms.

New Cotton.

A new species of Cotton, called the Pomegranate surpassing any of the gossypium family, has been grown in Mississippi by Gen. Mitchell, of Warren Co. The tops and side branches are all thickly studded with bolls. The stalk does not attain a height usually of more than four or five feet, but every portion of the plant is literally covered with bolls, which are sustained in an upright position by the strength and vigor of the stem and branches. The chief peculiarity of this plant is that the stem and branches have no joints as in other kinds, and although the bolls are so numerous, there can be no inconvenience in picking. The staple is beautiful, and far more silky than the best Petit Gulf.

How to behave at the Court Dinner.

The following insipid directions for persons attending the inauguration, last Monday, were given in that sublimely insipid sheet, the Court Journal, at Washington:

"A glass bowl half-filled with tepid water, and scented with a few drops of orange-flower water, is placed before each guest, into which he should insert the extremities of his fingers noiselessly, and then wipe them, also a small glass tumbler half filled with tepid water is sometimes placed in the bowl; this is used to rinse the mouth, and is a universal custom on the continent of Europe; a small quantity of this water is taken into the mouth, noiselessly, and then the head is bent forward over the bowl, and the water is allowed to run out of the mouth into the bowl—the mouth is then wiped, and the napkin is taken away with the bowl."

New Fire Department.

A citizen of Middletown, Conn. proposes, (instead of paying firemen) that the inhabitants should organize themselves into a mutual company for the purpose of insurance, and also of putting out fires. With a view to bring the citizens into his scheme, the said mutual fire department is to stand by idly, as quiet spectators, and let the property of those who do not belong to the company burn up, in case it should take fire!

A large colony of Belgians is about proceeding to California.

LITERARY NOTICES.

Holden's Dollar Magazine.

The March number of this unrivalled and justly celebrated Magazine has made its appearance upon our table, as usual. We are glad to know that the enterprise of the publisher in furnishing such a cheap publication, has been responded to by a large list of subscribers. This number presents well executed engravings of Niagara Falls; Louis Napoleon the first President of France; Elihu Burritt the Learned Blacksmith, and also an excellent likeness of the Rev. Dr. Baird, accompanied by Sigma's usual interesting biography. In consequence of an unexpected attack of the yellow fever our friend Holden, has been removed to the California Hospital, but his readers may expect that his spirit will continue breathing life and interest to the magazine. The literary contents for this month are unusually interesting.

The Miners Guide and Metallurgist's Directory.

This is a very neat pocket volume, edited by J. W. Orton, Esq. one who is well qualified for such a task, and published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. It is a hand book which should be in the possession, not of any one class of men, but all classes. To persons who are intending a journey onward to the gold or mining regions, it would be an excellent companion.

The New England Farmer for March is an excellent number. This is a valuable periodical.

The Western Journal, published by Tarver and Risk, St. Louis, Mo. is one of the best Magazines for useful information in the Western world.

We have received the Report of the survey of the Cleveland and Pittsburg Railroad, Ohio, accompanied with a beautiful map, by the Chief Engineer, Geo. R. Eichbaum.—The Report is a very able one.

Hon. Thos. H. Benton and Hon. Geo. Ashmun will please accept our thanks for valuable public documents.

Properties of Charcoal.

The properties of carbon are numerous; they have been partly studied, but every day produces new facts: when it is in a state of ignition, it possesses some very remarkable properties.

When a piece of ignited charcoal, which is very clean and free from ash, is immersed into a solution of a metallic salt, it reduces the metallic salt which is contained in it, and the metal itself is deposited with all its natural brilliancy on the piece of charcoal. Thus, the salts of tin, copper, platina, palladium, mercury, silver and gold, &c., furnish most brilliant deposits.

M. Lazowski has remarked, he says, that when the salts are too acid or too much concentrated, no effect is produced. The dilute solutions of the salts of copper often yield, by covering the charcoal, the most varied shades of color, from the finest azure blue to that of metallic copper. The parts of the charcoal upon which certain metals are deposited in preference, are the extremities; whilst other metals cover equally all the surface of the reducing body; at other times, and this occurs with the protochloride of tin, the metal appears in very brilliant crystals, disseminated on the periphery of the charcoal.

United States and Scotland.

The Glasgow Post says that "a project is in contemplation of bringing Glasgow into direct steam communication with the United States of America. In fact, preparations for carrying the undertaking into effect have already commenced. A contemporary mentions that the keel of the first vessel of this line has just been laid down by Messrs. Denny, Brother, of Dumbarton. The vessel is to be of iron, and of 1,000 tons burden. She is to be on the screw principle, and fully ship-rigged. The vessel will be propelled by engines of 250 horse power, which are in course of construction by the Messrs. Caird, of Greenock. The new steamer is intended to ply directly from the Broomielaw, the name of the ship wharf in Glasgow.

American Antiquities.

Several specimens of American antiquities have recently arrived at New Orleans which were excavated by a traveller from ancient ruins near San Luis Potosi, in Mexico. They comprise two idols and a sacrificial basin hewn from solid blocks of sandstone and are in good preservation. The largest of the idols was undoubtedly the god of sacrifice, and one of the most important. It is of life size, and the only complete specimen of the kind that has ever been discovered and brought away from the country. The anatomical proportions and beauty of this statue are not admired, but the elaborate work upon its entire surface attracts at once the attention of the beholder. It is principally ornamental, interspersed with symbols of mythology, and occasional hieroglyphics. It has two faces representing youth and old age. The right hand forms an aperture, in which a light burned during the time of sacrifice.

The smaller idol is the god of sorrow, to whom worshippers came to offer up their devotion for the tears it shed, and the relief it afforded them in their griefs. This statue is diminutive, the carvings plain, and the whole simply devised. The sacrificial basin measures two feet in diameter and displays much skill and truth in the workmanship. It is held by two serpents entwined, with their heads reversed—the symbol of eternity, which enters largely into the mythology of the ancient Egyptians.

Wells.

Artesian Wells are more common in the South, than is perhaps, imagined here. A writer in the Charleston Evening News states that they exist in hundreds in Green, Dallas, Wilcox, Perry, Sumter, Louisiana, and Arkansas. They vary in depth from 800 to 900 feet. In Albany the water is invariably found on passing through a certain rock which sinks or nips slowly in the South west. Several have been undertaken in South Carolina, near Charleston, at various times, but have been unsuccessful and were abandoned. One is in progress now, which has reached a great depth, the object being to supply the city with water. Boring for water in this country has not been generally as successful as in France, for the reason that in the latter region scientific men are always consulted before such speculations are finally resolved on.

Bad and good Luck at a Fire.

During the burning of the Broadway House in Albany N. Y. on the 25th ult. so sudden was the progress of the flames, that the interior was burned nearly away before all the lodgers could remove their baggage. One gentleman, who had, before retiring for the night placed his gold watch on the table, under his handkerchief, and his pocket book, containing \$150, in bed, under his pillow, was more fortunate than the rest. When the alarm of fire was given, in the confusion of the moment he left them behind, and only recollected them when it was too late to return. After the fire was subdued, he took a shovel and went to work to remove the rubbish, when, indeed, he discovered not only pocket book and money, but his watch, which was only slightly discolored by smoke.

More of California Gold.

The Washington Union publishes the following anecdote about the gold soil of California. We consider it to be the best story extant upon the subject and deserving a medal.

"We have just heard a very curious anecdote from an American who has recently returned from Liverpool. He obtained it from Gen. Armstrong, who had it immediately from the gardener of the Earl of Darby himself. The Earl lives within about eight miles of Liverpool. He had just received some bulbous roots from California, wrapped in the dirt of their native country; and as a mere matter of curiosity, he directed the earth to be washed for the purpose of seeing whether it contained any particles of gold. His instructions were followed, and the result was nearly a handful of gold dust and shells from the washing of the earth."

Air is 816 times lighter than water, not 8 times only, as an item in our last stated.

Yea and Nay Machine.

A yea and nay machine has been fitted up in the Pennsylvania Legislature. The members vote by touching keys (for yeas and nays) placed at each desk; the result of each touch being a perforation on the yea or nay side of a printed list of members named. One vote of 59 yeas and 40 nays, was recorded in less than two seconds.

Fall of the White Water Canal Culvert and Aqueduct.

We learn from the Cincinnati Commercial that on the night of the 21st ult., owing to the sudden departure of the frost from the materials, or something else, the culvert under the aqueduct at Mill Creek gave way; and as the aqueduct rested on the culvert, it followed as a consequence, making a total smash of the whole! The aqueduct and culvert cost an immense sum at first, and their being rebuilt two or three times, seems in no way to lessen expense. The aqueduct is some 200 or 300 feet long: the cost is some \$100,000!

Certain Rights.

All men are endowed with inalienable rights—except poor men. All men who do not pay their honest debts are great scamps—except those who cheat on a large scale. All men are born free and equal—except negroes. All men are sinners—except those who belong to the Church. All men are allowed to think and act freely—except those who work for a living. All well dressed, accomplished women are ladies—except factory girls.

A Roman Prophecy of Washington.

In one of Cicero's fragments, the following remarkable sentence occurs, written some eighteen hundred years ago: "Far across the ocean, if we may credit the Sybilline books, and after many ages, an extensive and rich country will be discovered, and in it will arise a hero, who by his counsel and arms will deliver his country from the slavery by which she was oppressed. This shall he do under favorable auspices; and oh! how much more admirable will he be than our Brutus and Camillus? These predictions were known to our Accius, and embellished with the ornaments of poetry."

[The above is going the rounds and it would be a treat to many to know in what fragment of Cicero's works, the above is to be found.

The English man-of-war steamer Cormorant, was recently supplied at Port Camosack, Vancouver's Island, with sixty-two tons of good coal in three days. The coal at Chili and Port Famine is also abundant, and the Pacific may be easily navigated by steamers.

All the Orange trees in Florida have been killed by the late severe frost. On one plantation, that of Capt. Bennett, near Apalachicola, four thousand trees were killed in one night. The loss falls heavier upon the planters.

The American Institute passed a resolution not long since against the admission of persons not members of the Institute to the meetings. Under this regulation the public, for whose enlightenment the Institute was established, will be shut out from its learned and luminous discussions.

A line of telegraph is now being constructed from Nashville, through Clarksville and Parucah, to St. Louis. The first section was completed some days ago.

In a letter to Mr. Crosby, an extensive English Iron manufacturer, it is stated that the Bank of England has become mortgagee in possession of several iron manufacturing establishments. The writer complains that in making offers of sale he is constantly met with the reply that the Bank of England will sell considerably lower.

The Duke of Argyle and sons, and Lady Blantyre, have been excommunicated by Bishop Trover, a tractarian, for attending divine service in Glasgow, in a Presbyterian church. What of it.

One of the monstrous bed plates for the Steamer Atlantic was cast by Messrs. Stillman, Allen & Co. on Friday, at the Novelty Works. It weighs over thirty-four tons. A number of persons were present on the occasion and all were highly gratified.