



### Newspapers.

Every subscriber is apt to think that a newspaper is printed for his special benefit, and if he finds nothing in it at one time that suits him, he thinks it good for nothing. There are but few papers that do not contain something of use to the subscriber. From the testimony of every one of our correspondents, we can say that our readers always find something to suit them in every number. We endeavor to make our paper one of facts, and although there may be nothing in one number to suit some subscribers, yet when they place it on file, it will happen somehow or other, that they will have to refer to some article in that very number, for information on some subject which came not under their cognizance before. It is true that we have not births, deaths and marriages in our columns because some people like to read these things, and we have not stories because some people love them; neither have we politics for the politician, but for all this, we endeavor to have something for all. We have food for the young and food for the old, and it is of such a kind that those who partake of it, feel afterwards renewed at least in mental strength.

### Low Pressure Condensing Engine Plates.

The second edition of this magnificent drawing is now ready and we are in hopes to be able in future to supply the demand for them. It is justly styled the best American drawing ever executed, and the demand we have had for them is evidence that the American public appreciate its beauty and desire to patronize the artist who executed it. Published by Munn & Co. to whom all orders should be addressed. Price single \$3 with a book of notes referring to, and explaining its various parts. Address post paid letters to this office with the amount required, and they shall meet with prompt attention.

### Fay's American Pencils.

Mr. Fay, of Concord, Mass., whose advertisement will be found on another page, has lately made some valuable improvements on his lead pencils for drawing. These pencils are sold at Jeroliman & Co.'s, No. 134 William street, this city, and they will no doubt supersede the imported kind.

### Feltings.

We have lately seen samples of superior Feltings, manufactured by John H. Bacon, late of the firm of R. Bacon & Sons, Medford Mass. They are used for several purposes, viz: for filters, water and steam pipes, by calico printers, jewellers, marble workers, for emery wheels, boot felts, and for various other purposes. Mr. Bacon is also the manufacturer of Lambs' Wool Wadding so much admired by the ladies for cloaks, quilts, skirts sacks, hoods, &c. &c. and also for gentlemen's overcoats. Any persons in want of these articles will find them—wholesale and retail—as per advertisement in another column.

### The Mississippi and the Lakes United.

The flood at Chicago seems to have been caused by the extraordinary overflow of streams which usually empty into the Mississippi. A Chicago paper dated several days before the freshet, says that the river Des Plaines, which usually empties into the Illinois, was seeking tide-water by way of the Niagara, and was flowing into the Chicago river, making such a current as to clear out the sand bars much more effectually than a dozen River and Harbor Bills of Congress. It is within the recollection of many citizens of Northern Illinois, that there was formerly natural water communication between the Lakes and the Mississippi, at the precise point at which this union is at present effected by the extraordinary amount of melting snow upon the surface.

Dissolve green vitriol and a little nitrous acid in water, and you have an invisible ink. In using it write with a new pen.

### Coal and the Coal Operatives.

The Pottsville Emporium contains the proceedings in full of the meeting of Coal Operators, of which we have had a slight sketch by the telegraph.

The committee who reported the state of the Coal Trade was composed of Joseph S. Silver, G. H. Potts and Joseph G. Lawton.—They say in their report, that the average cost of every ton of first quality red ash coal, delivered in boat or car at Mount Carbon, is not less than \$2! White ash coal, of equal quality, contingencies being smaller, costs on the average 25 cents less. It is only what it brings beyond these figures that constitutes the profits of the miner.

The production of the coal regions for 1849 is estimated at 3,387,000. There was consumed last year 3,300,000. The regular increase in the consumption has been 25 per cent for several years previous to 1849, when it fell to 13½ per cent. Taking the lowest possible standard, there will be required 400,000 tons over the largest quantity that can be delivered to market by the carrying machinery from all sources in 1849.

If the regular increase be required, then there will be over 700,000 tons short. This, the report says, is the true state of the market and the prospects, and the miners, it argues, have the market in their hands. The report was adopted, with the following resolution:

Resolved, That in our opinion \$2 25 per ton for red ash coal, and \$2 per ton for white ash prepared and lump coal, at Mount Carbon, should be the prices fixed at the opening of the season.

The Emporium says that the movement has already had an effect, and advanced prices have been offered.

### Artesian Wells in Wisconsin.

In Fond du Lac Wisconsin, they have bored to about 150 feet only and found a good supply of water. The water is of a beautiful soft quality—sometimes a little impregnated with sulphur—and is delivered at the surface, or as much above it within 39 feet as is desired. The cost is comparatively small. Contractors deliver it at the surface, putting everything, for \$100. The boring is done by two men with entire ease, whatever may be the depth. A slight stratum of rock, commonly not over three feet is passed. This is worked through with a drill, to which a cable-ropes instead of rods, is attached. The bore is lined throughout with sheet iron pipe, which follows the drill as fast as it proceeds.

There can be no fear from lead pipes when there is sulphur in the water. How wisely has the Great Geologist of nature ordered the mingling of materials in that lead country, to make it an agricultural one also.

### Steamboats on the Upper Lakes.

The number of steamboats on the upper Lakes up to the year 1825, was one. In 1847 there were seventy steamboats—many of them of the most splendid description, and some of 1000 tons burthen, besides thirty propellers by steam! Thus it will be seen that only 24 years ago there was not one steamboat on these mighty inland seas. Who will attempt to say how numerous they will be in as many years more?

In 1835, only thirteen years ago there were not 5,000 white inhabitants between Lake Michigan and the Pacific ocean! Now there are nearly a million.

### Chinese, Fraud.

It was recently discovered that in a chest of tea imported into the port of Liverpool from China, were concealed several pounds weight of earth and rubbish. This is fully believed to have been concealed in the chest before it left China, because it was placed in the centre of the chest, the tea packed closely round it, and the paper in which the rubbish was concealed was of China manufacture.

### A Good Month's Work.

There were spun at the Blackstone Mills, Woonsocket, R. I. for 4 weeks ending March 3, 1849, on 44 self-acting mules, numbering 19,836 spindles, 1,938,882 skeins, about half of which was warp and half filling, being a daily average of four and seven and a quarter hundredths skeins per spindle. The mules are of Sharp and Roberts' pattern. Average number of yarn, 18½.

### Quick Sailing.

The ship Sea Witch, Captain Waterman, which arrived at this port last week from Canton, in the unusually short space of 74 days and 14 hours, has, it appears, made a series of passages on her course out and home again, surpassing in quickness any previously made by a sailing vessel. These passages make a voyage round the world, which he has effected in 194 sailing days. Her runs are as follows: 69 days from New York to Valparaiso, 50 days from Callao to China, 75 days from China to New York. Distance run by observations from New York to Valparaiso 10,586 miles; average 6 2-5 miles per hour. Distance run from Callao to China 10,417 miles; average 8 5-8 knots per hour. Distance run from China to New York 14,255 miles; average 6 7-8 per hour. Best ten (consecutive) days run, 2,664 miles: average 11 1-10 per hour.

### Recent Storms.

This Spring will long be remembered for its severe storms and floods. The Mississippi, the Illinois, and many other rivers have done great damage by their rolling waters. At Peoria in Illinois, the flood has been higher than any other within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Houses have been overthrown and swept away, and down the valley of the Mississippi, the river has spread over a vast extent of country, carrying everything before it. In Iowa and throughout Missouri, the rivers have also been unusually high. From every part of our country we learn of severe storms. Bridges have been swept away and large tracts of country laid waste.

### Bad News from the Peach Trees.

At the meeting of the Legislative Agricultural Society, recently held in Boston several experienced cultivators of fruit stated that, by recent examination of their peach trees, they had found that nearly all the buds were dead; and one gentleman, Mr. Wilder, of Dorchester, expressed the apprehension that the cherry buds would be found in much the same condition. This is attributed by some to the general severity of the past winter, and by others to the warm weather experienced in December, which is supposed to have caused the buds to swell, and the cold weather which followed had nipped the swollen bud.

### Thunder and Snow.

On Wednesday, the 21st instant, about half past three, P. M., the snow falling rapidly, with the wind at the northwest, a vivid flash of lightning, unheralded by any previous indications of electricity, startled the inhabitants of the city of Syracuse and its vicinity; nor was their surprise diminished by the tremendous explosion which followed, like the discharge of a hundred cannon in the clouds, succeeded by a prolonged roll away towards the horizon, and ending into a swell which shook the ground like an earthquake. Probably not in ten years, at any season, has there been experienced by those who were observant of this discharge, a thunder-clap exceeding or equalling its intensity. Not the least singular circumstance attending it, was the fact that no thunder was heard after. It had been raining about an hour and a half previously, but a quarter of an hour before, the rain had changed into snow, which continued to fall heavily during the remainder of the day.

### Another Balloon Ascention.

Mons. Victor Verdale made another ascension in his balloon at New Orleans on the 18th inst., without the usual car and suspended from the lower part of the balloon by his feet. The ascent was made from Congo Square, and a vast number of people were congregated in and around the place to witness the affair.—Everything went off well, the balloon included, and the aeronaut rose to a considerable height, passing over the city, and at the corner of Perdido and Baroane streets, the machine descended and was safely secured. Verdale is becoming quite famous.

### New Iron Company.

A company has been formed at Hudson, with a capital of \$125,000, to erect a furnace and engage in the manufacture of iron. Mr. Charles Alzer of Stockbridge, Mass., is the principal stockholder.

### Macaulay and his Orthography.

Mr. Macaulay has addressed the following letter to the Messrs. Harper in reference to the spelling used in their edition of his history.

GENTLEMEN: The copy of my history, which you were so good as to send, has this day reached me. I can as yet only judge of the general effect of the paper and typography; and that effect is highly creditable to your house.

The spelling differs from mine. But the difference does not affect either the substance or the style of my work; and I therefore do not consider myself as personally aggrieved by the change. If my sentiments were suppressed, or my language altered, I should think I had a right to complain. But, as to the spelling, I have no wish, except that it may be such as is generally acceptable to the American readers. T. R. MACAULAY.

Now this letter will surely set all our small linguists a sneezing. It will not settle the controversy however, because it has nothing to do with the question. The question is this simply. "Is it right to give to the public a work in the name of an author, with an orthography different from his?" We care about the sense alone, but we think it breathes of Anglo-Saxon freedom to allow every author to appear in his own spelling whether it is fonography or orthography.

The spelling however has nothing to do with the merits of a book—that is altogether a different question.

### Antediluvian Rhinoceros.

M. Brandt, a zoologist, has published some microscopical observations upon the remains of food found by him in the cavities of the teeth of an antediluvian rhinoceros of which the museum of St. Petersburg possesses an entire cranium covered with the skin. From these researches it appears, that this species of animal fed upon the leaves and fruits of fir-trees; and it must in consequence, be supposed, that those great fossils found in the arctic regions of the ancient continent had never lived in a tropical climate. The tufted hair with which these were covered, and the examples of mammoths found standing, lead us to think that these species really lived where their remains are now found, and that all the geological hypotheses relative to the sudden changes of temperature in the districts inhabited formerly by these animals, and to the inundations by which their remains were transported from their primitive country, must be received with some caution.

### Great Explosion at Allegany, Pa.

The boiler that exploded at the factory of Messrs. Fife, by which five persons are said to have lost their lives, is a sad affair. The boiler was thrown to a considerable distance from its resting-place, both heads were blown entirely out—one driven east, the other west—3000 feet or more apart. The boiler was a large cylinder of 36 inches diameter, and is said to have before exploded on a steamboat.—It is the opinion of engineers, however, that the accident was the result not of defect in the metal, but of deficiency of water—generating combustible explosive gas. The engineer escaped.

### Pennsylvania Coal Bushel.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania has just passed an act establishing a measure of bituminous coal, the bushel of which shall be 2688 cubic inches—or in other words—five pecks of the Winchester, or common grain measure. This was greatly needed by suppliers and consumers of coal, as no rule existed heretofore for its measurement but the indefinite one of the Winchester bushel heaped.

### Calvin's Church at Geneva.

A traveller in Switzerland writes from Geneva, "that the old Gothic church where Calvin preached—the very sound-board which re-echoed the discussions of the Catholic monks with the reformers, is still in a green old age. It is now the principal church in Geneva, and 12 pastors of the city officiate in its pulpit by turns.

The mines discovered by the Mormons near Salt Lake, in the Rocky Mountains, prove to be copper and lead, instead of gold, as at first reported.