



**The Cholera in our City.**

Thus far, it may be said, that we have had no Cholera in New York.

The few cases which have occurred, said by some to be real Asiatic Cholera, is allowed by those capable of judging not to have been this disease. The malignant type, it certainly was not; cleanliness, better ventilation and better food, dispelled the disease from the quarters where it appeared, as if by the touch of a magician's wand.

Dr. Whiting, Health Officer at the Quarantine, Staten Island, in his report to the Board of Health, says:

Chloroform has been administered in a number of cases, carefully and repeatedly, and at first gave some hope that it would prove a successful remedy, but no other permanent good has resulted from its use but to relieve the spasms and cramps. For this purpose I have used it in all cases moderately, and if not a cure for all the symptoms, it is an invaluable remedy in subduing one of the most painful symptoms of the disease.

Among the grand preventatives of this disease are calmness of mind, cleanliness and simple accustomed diet.

#### Health of the West, &c.

A friend out West writes us: "The Cholera has produced considerable alarm in some of the Western cities, principally those located on the banks of the Ohio river. Several of the line boats have laid up for a season, and the travel by water seems all but suspended. We had a heavy thunder-storm in Cincinnati on Saturday; no original cases are contained in our reports for Sabbath. Our dispatches from St. Louis up to the 17th, inst. exhibit an increase and well founded reports exhibit sad ravages among some of the California adventurers. Kanawha, where the celebrated Springs and Salt works are located, has suffered to some considerable extent. The Eastern (Virginia) masters have taken home their slaves, and some respectable individuals have become victims to the disease. Wheeling, Steubenville, Pittsburgh and other cities on the river, are still exempt from the scourge, and every sanitary measure has been made in operation as preventative.

Horace Greely, Esq., the energetic, self-made man of the Tribune, passed through Wheeling on Sabbath night week. He appeared tired and fatigued, but continued his journey to Cincinnati to attend the great Temperance Convention. Had it not been Sabbath he would have received a round of three cheers from his Wheeling friends. The Tribune is widely read around this section and though its readers and principal Editor don't go all the way on political points, still we venerate and respect the man who advocates sufficient and competent remuneration of manual labor. Horace does it, with his pen, and practically among his workmen."

#### Hon. Edmund Burke.

We learn by the Philadelphia Ledger that Mr. Burke is now associated with Mr. Ritchie in editing the Union at Washington. He can both wield a sharp pen and draw a long bow, and there is one thing we like about him, whatever difference of opinion may be expressed by others regarding his party predilections—he is frank and open in expressing them.

Mr. Thomas Ewbank of this city, it will be seen has been appointed commissioner of patents, at Washington, in place of Mr. Burke. Mr. E. is a most estimable man, of extraordinary acquirements and ability and perfectly familiar with the class of subjects with which his office is concerned. He has never been an active politician.—*N. Y. Cour. and Eng.*

The new commissioner of patents is thus spoken of by all who know him or are familiar with his reputation. The selection is honorable to the administration.—*Louisville, Ky. Journal.*

#### Isthmus of Panama.

The surveying party sent out to the Isthmus by Messrs. Aspinwall & Co. of this city, to select the best route for a railroad across the Isthmus, have been diligently engaged in their labors. A letter published in the Tribune says:

"The corps has been divided into four parties—two for the Chagres Division, and two for the Panama Division—each running distinct lines. By this organization, every advantage has been taken of the dry season, and although it was late when the party arrived out, yet the results show two separate and distinct lines from the Atlantic to the Pacific, nearly finished within a little more than two months.

One of the lines of the Chagres Division having been completed, the parties engaged on the same were sent, a few days since, to seek a third line on the Panama Division.

The two lines across the summit make the greatest elevation some 40 feet less than previous examinations. The highest grade over the summit, on one line, will not exceed 47 feet per mile, with a short tunnel; while the other line dispenses with the tunnel, but increases the grade to 66 feet per mile.

The total distance from Panama to the Terminus on the Atlantic is 46 miles. There will be required only one important bridge, all the rest will be small. The best and most desirable wood can be obtained on the line for the superstructure.

The surveys will be finished in four or five weeks, and if the same energy is exercised by the contractors for building the road, you may expect to see it completed in eighteen months, when I hope to be on my way home, and enjoying a steam ride across the Isthmus."

#### The Pine-Tree Insect.

Some weeks since, says the Wilmington Chronicle, we mentioned that the insect which was so destructive last year to the pine-trees in this, as well as other parts of the country had recommenced operations with the warm weather. We have recently, to our very great satisfaction, been informed that the snow of the middle of last month, had the effect, as is supposed, of checking the evil in a great degree, and in conjunction with another cause, will, it is generally supposed, arrest it altogether. This other cause is the appearing in immense swarms, of a large fly, which attacks and kills the tree insect. This may seem a strange statement, but it is, as we are assured by men of veracity, strictly true.

#### Railroad Sprinklers.

The New York and New Haven Railroad Co. are about to try the experiment of water sprinklers upon their road, by which one of the greatest annoyances of railway travel in the summer may be prevented. An engine with one or more large cars or tanks attached will run over the line twice each day, when necessary, and "lay the dust."—*Springfield Republican.*

[This is a good idea and one that has been carried out for two or three years past on the Providence and Worcester Railroad.]

#### Lecture on the Inventive Genius of America.

We have received a copy of the above able lecture delivered before the Maryland Institute for the promotion of the Mechanic Arts, by Walter R. Johnson, Esq. the eminent Chemist. We intended to notice its principal features this week, but have been obliged to defer it till next week.

#### Notice.

Our friends will understand that we have constantly on hand, Minifie's Mechanical Drawing book, and all other mechanical works previously advertised in the Scientific American. We call attention to the advertisement of London Publications, conducted by Wm. Carpmael, Esq. They are very valuable.

#### A Great State.

Horace Greely writing from Ohio, says that sixty years ago the first white settlement was made in Ohio. She now has a population of two millions, and before the close of the present century, according to the present rate of increase, will have ten millions. Three fourths of Ohio is yet a forest. Her mineral resources are untouched, and manufactures are in their infancy.

#### Masters and Apprentices.

An interesting case, in which were involved the rights and duties of masters and apprentices, was decided in Lancaster, Pa., a few days ago. The Lancaster Union gives the particulars of the case, which are given as follows: In the Commonwealth vs. Humphery, it appears the defendant was a house carpenter by trade, and ordered his apprentice to saw and split wood, for household uses, in no way connected with the "art, trade or mystery" which the young man was bound to learn and the master to teach. The apprentice objected to cut the wood because the axe was out of order. The master undertook to enforce his authority by beating the boy with a stick—the boy resisted, and afterwards indicted the master for assault and battery. Judge Lewis charged the Jury—

1. That a master who takes an apprentice, for the purpose of instructing him in any particular art or trade, has no right to withdraw the time and attention of the apprentice from the proper business which he is to teach and the other to learn; and that the highly respectable condition of an APPRENTICE cannot be degraded to a level of a MENIAL, or mere FAMILY SERVANT.

2. That a master house carpenter has no right to direct his apprentice to cut and split firewood when such cutting and splitting of firewood has no connection with the "art, trade or mystery" of house carpenter.

#### Pimples on the Face.

Touch them with spirits of turpentine once in 6 hours and they will soon take themselves away. The same remedy, if applied early, will remove a sty from the eye-lid; and in nine cases out of ten, prevent biles if used in the first stages.—*Ex.*

[We should not like to try such remedies. It is no joke to touch the eyelid with spirits of turpentine.]

#### Roman Archbishops.

The Baltimore Sun says that "in addition to the proposed elevation to Archbishoprics of three of the present sees, and the creation of a new Bishopric by this body lately in session here, it is understood that the Pope is also petitioned to make Primatial the metropolitan sees of Baltimore. A pastoral letter put forth by the Council recommends also to the American Church pecuniary collections in behalf of the Pope, and, by unanimous vote, urges that functionary to "define as an article of faith" the immaculate conception of the Virgin. Though this point has always been maintained by theologians of the Church, it has never been used as a positive dogma from Rome.

#### New Mode of Reefing Vessels.

S. Watts, jr., of Hallowell, Maine, has invented a method of bending, reefing and furling the sails of vessels, by which four men on the deck can furl or reef the main topsail with ease and despatch in the most violent gales. All the top sails also can be reefed, and the remaining canvas furled during the time usually required to reef a single vessel. No men are sent aloft, and the danger of delay in a tempest, are alike avoided.

#### Theory of the Hair.

Dr. Holland has started a new theory with regard to the functions of the hair. He says it is a safety valve to the nervous system, forming a connection between the nervous organs and the great principles pervading the universe. He says the profuseness of hair is always proportionate to the prevailing vital energies.—*Ex.*

[The Doctor in all probability has a bushy wig. We are inclined sometimes to the very opposite opinion, "all hair and no brains."]

#### The Sea Serpent, Thrilling Adventure.

The Boston Post says that there is a rumor in circulation that the clipper ship Sophia Walker, Captain Wiswell, was chased around Cape Horn by an enormous sea serpent, half a mile long, and that Captain Wiswell was so terrified that his eyes stuck out far enough to hang a Quaker's hat upon. In his eagerness to escape he wore out a new suit of sails, and made one of the best passages on record. We hope that he will make an accurate report, without appendix, of every particular relating to the interesting monster.

#### The South Pass.—Alkaline Water.—Rock Salt.—New Gold Mine.

The Liberty (Mo.) Tribune says: "Many of the way streams are so strongly impregnated with alkali that they dare not let their cattle drink. On the shores of many the crust is formed an inch thick. They break up this crust, scrape off the dirt on the bottom and top, and find it pure saleratus. Strange as this may seem, it is nevertheless true, and the writer collected in a short time 75 lbs. A mountain of pure rock salt has been discovered near the Mormon settlement. The Mormons have discovered a gold mine 150 miles southwest from the Salt Lake. The last end of the journey to the Salt Lake, say 200 miles, is attended with little fatigue. Nearly all the way the roads are as good as on any prairie in the West."

#### Astronomical Clock.

Dr. Locke, of Cincinnati, now in this city superintending the construction of his magnetic clock for the national observatory, has, during its progress, made some new philosophical and mechanical discoveries, and added some new improvements in relation to the pendulum and other parts of the clock.

#### A Yankee Egg Hatching Machine in France.

An American, Mr. Williams, has established himself near Paris, at Champigny, and organized there an "egg hatching manufactory" which is very successful. The French papers give the description of the apparatus for the hatching and feeding of the young chickens, and pronounce it very excellent. It is, anyhow, a discovery renewed from the Egyptians.

#### A Turtle in a Queer Place.

A frog was dressed at the Wm. Tell yesterday, says a Cincinnati paper, and a live snapping turtle was taken from its stomach! The turtle was near about the diameter of a dollar; and appeared to be laboring under no inconvenience, or to evince any gratitude towards those who released him from his prison, except a few snaps at the finger may be so construed. The turtle is now alive and doing well, but the frog has long since been consigned to an epicurean hecatomb.

#### The Russian Fur Company.

The Russian Emperor has granted a new charter to the Russian Fur Company of North America, but on condition that the company shall establish a line of transatlantic steamships. He has given four million roubles to assist in this project.

#### Planetary.

The Irish papers announce that Prof. Glukman is engaged in the construction of photographic apparatus, by which, with the aid of Lord Rosse's monster telescope, it is hoped, that delineations of the most distant planetary arrangements and movements may be obtained.

#### Drawings done by the Sun.

Mr. Langenheim, of Philadelphia, has recently made such improvements in Daguerreotyping, that he is now able to produce instantaneously upon paper, copies of any desired object with the utmost exactness.

The vote for the British Post Office Packet Service for 1849 is \$3,730,000. One of the items is \$1,160,000 for the West Indian Mails, the postages from which yield only \$295,000. Mr. Bright represented the penny postage as a successful reform the importance of which could scarcely be overrated.

William A. Burke, Esq., agent of the Lowell machine shop, sailed in the America for Liverpool. His object is to obtain information in regard to machinery, locomotives, &c. He proposes to visit England, Scotland, Ireland, and France, examining all the works in those countries, and will return in the fall.

A patent, for the term of five years, has been granted to Don Juan Ramos, in Puerto Rico, for making sugar without leaving any molasses from the syrup.

Police officer John Burleigh, who was severely wounded by the mob at the late riot, died last week from the injuries he received.