



Indian Corn in England.

An experiment has been made upon a small scale with some Indian Corn in England.—The seed was put into a small enclosure in St. James Park, London, on the 24th of May last, and though for some time retarded by easterly winds, the young shoots came up well. However, when the plants began to feel the cheering influences of light and air with a hotter sun, the success of the experiment was abundantly testified by the vigorous aspect of the little crop. The spot selected was not favorable to the experiment, being close to a nursery of young trees. It is estimated that thirty acres of corn would be worth £400, if the soil be of an average quality and properly drained. The cultivation of corn has been deemed of so much importance by the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, that two very able papers have already been published in the Society's Journal explanatory of the properties of this plant, and pointing out the best system of culture. Should the experiment now in course of trial in St. James's Park succeed to the extent predicted, it is presumed that it will be very generally adopted.

Perilous Balloon Ascent and Descent.

On the 25th ult. Mr. Green the veteran aeronaut with his wife and several other individuals made an ascension with his great Nassau Balloon, from Vauxhall, London. After ascending some distance into the air, it came down again rapidly. Mr. Green, who was seated in the car, perceiving the extreme danger, commenced emptying the sand bags of ballast as quickly as he possibly could, but even this did not prevent the gradual sinking. On passing over the St. George's road, near West-square, the balloon landed on the roofs of the houses Nos. 94 and 95, on the north side of the London road. The car, in which seven of the aeronauts were seated, struck the front of the house with considerable violence, so much so that three of the persons who were standing on the hoop were thrown forward on the roof, which fortunately happened to be a flat one, but the fourth clung to the network of the balloon. The machine being thus relieved from the weight of three of its occupants, and having escaped perforation, instantly rose into the air to a considerable altitude, when a fresh current of air carried it in a southerly direction, apparently towards Croyden. A messenger afterwards arrived at Vauxhall gardens, conveying the information that, after passing over a great portion of the county of Kent, the balloon was safely settled upon terra firma in an open field, within half a mile of Erith Church.

Steam Marine of France.

A recent official publication shows the steam marine of France to consist of sixty-one vessels, with an aggregate of 13,200 horse power. France has besides, completely armed 80 ships of the line, 8 frigates, 17 corvettes, 21 brigs, and 27 schooners, cutters, &c. She has also 10 large troop ships. Her entire naval armament is said to be in a high state of efficiency.

[If the United States would take it into their heads to give Louis Napoleon a thrashing for his bad behavior, some no doubt would be frightened at the above terrific array of steam ships; but such fears would be groundless, as we have learned from experience, that French steam ships cannot cross the Atlantic, without putting into Halifax for coal.]

Susquehanna Trade.

The Elkton (Md.) Democrat says that the sawed lumber brought to Port Deposit annually is valued at \$75,000,000; while the shingles and unsawed timber which are brought down the Susquehanna to the same place swell the aggregate to \$200,000,000! The trade in granite from quarries in the immediate vicinity of Port Deposit is valued at over \$75,000.

Vegetable Remains in Coal.

An abundance of distinctly preserved vegetable remains occur through the coal mines of Great Britain. But the first example is found in the coal mines of Bohemia. The most elaborate imitations of living foliage upon the painted ceilings of Italian palaces, bear no comparison with the beautiful profusion of extant vegetables forms, in which the galleries of these instructive coal mines are overhung. The roof is covered as with a canopy of gorgeous tapestry, with festoons of the most graceful foliage, hung in wild confusion over every part of its surface. The effect is heightened by the contrast of the coal-black color with the light ground-work of the rock, to which they are attached. The spectator feels himself transported, as if by enchantment, into the forest of another world. He beholds trees of a form and character now unknown upon the face of the earth, almost in the beauty and vigor of their primeval life, their scaly stems and bending branches, and with their delicate apparatus of foliage are all spread before him; little impaired by the lapse of ages, and leaving faithful records of systems of vegetation, which began and terminated in times of which those relics are the infallible historians.

Skinning the Sable.

A returned traveller from the North tells me of a curious mode they have in Siberia of procuring the skin of the sable. Their fur is in the greatest perfection in the depth of winter, at which time the hunter proceeds to the forest armed with a pitcher of water and some carrion meat. He deposits the bait at the foot, and climbs to the top of a high tree. As soon as the animal attracted by the scent, arrives, the man drops some water on the tail and it instantaneously becomes frozen to the ground!—on which, descending from his elevation with incredible rapidity, his pursuer with a sharp knife cuts him transversely on the face. The sable, from the excess of pain, takes an extraordinary spring forward, runs off, and (his tail being fast to the ground) out of his skin of course, leaving it a prey to the hunter! Upon expressing a slight doubt as to the probability of this mode of skinning the animals, my friend assured me that he never could have believed it had he not frequently beheld it himself.—St. Petersburg Journal

[We are in the same position as that traveller was, before he "frequently beheld it himself."

The New Territories.

Despatches, we learn, have been received by our Government from California, stating that both these territories will be applicants to the next Congress for admission into the Union.—The primary measures are now being taken to accomplish the object. New Mexico, with its population of 75,000 is already competent for admission, and the population of California is daily increasing. Its permanent population, by the next session of Congress, will no doubt be sufficient to demand the doors to be opened to its admission among the sister States.

The Great Caravan.

The St. Louis Reveille says that the whole number of wagons en route across the plains to California will make a train 55 miles in length. The same paper estimates the number of men now on their way to California, by this route, at 36,000.

An Owl in a queer place.

Two weeks ago an owl was captured by Mr Wm. King of Rochester, N. Y., in a very curious manner. The window of one of the rooms of his house was open, and a small child was in bed alone in the room, just before dark.—The child beginning to cry, some one went into the room to quiet it, and discovered the owl standing on one of the bed posts; and in and near the window were a considerable number of robins and other birds, which had evidently driven his owlship into his present confinement, and were guarding the window to prevent the escape of their enemy. Mr. King was called, and having shut the window, went into the room and caught and caged the bird.

By the last news from Europe the Hungarians were giving the despots a clean sweep.

Facts for Mechanics.

St. Paul was a mechanic; a tent-maker.—Our Savior was a mechanic; a carpenter.—The great Architect of the universe, in the mechanism of the heavens and the earth, with its productions, animate and inanimate, displays a power and skill which human hands and human wisdom may attempt to imitate, but which they can never equal or approach.

Next to farmers, mechanics are the most numerous and the most important class of the community. Whatever promotes their interests, of course promotes the interests of the public. They, like farmers, have great facilities and great inducements to become men of science and sound knowledge. Every mechanic in every operation, brings into use some principles of science; which principle it is of course, his interest and his convenience to understand.

Every apprentice boy, no matter how assiduous or how rigorous his employment, if he spends a few minutes daily in useful reading and other modes of improvement, is certain to be a man of future influence and respectability. That apprentice who seeks most assiduously the interests of his employer, promotes most effectually his own interest; as character is the best capital a young man can have for the commencement of business.

Mechanics, like farmers, make safe and enlightened statesmen. They are well educated for legislators, and for other offices, because educated in schools of experience. Who can be better qualified to make laws for aiding the operations of business than those engaged in these operations.

English Supplies from the Black Sea, &c.

Southern Russia, lying on the borders of the Black Sea, raises vast quantities of wheat and grass. The British trade in that direction is increasing rapidly to supply their wants in provisions, and to supply those countries with British manufactures. In the years from 1825 to 1830, not more than 20 to 30 British vessels passed the Bosphorus straits for the Black Sea ports annually. In 1848 not less than 300 British vessels were engaged in that trade. They supply the people with British goods, and have driven American goods from those ports; and bring return cargoes of grain, butter, tallow, and hides.

England too, now receives from the Danube immense quantities of beef for her army and navy on contract, cured as follows; Bullocks there are raised at a very cheap rate in Wallachia and Moldavia, and sold alive at \$12 to \$15 a head. The hides, bones and horns, pay the cost. The beef is cut up in small pieces, the bones taken out, and put in small tight tin boxes with a little water, and no salt; a small hole only left in one corner of the box. They are set in a large iron vessel with water, and boiled until all the liquid in the boxes has escaped. The hole is then soldered up, and being thus left free of all air, the beef in them is known to keep as fresh as when it was put up. This ought to be remembered and tried.

Saying Grace in England.

Mr. Coleman in his European Life and Manners, says, that in England children even quite young are often called upon to say grace at the table, and that three days before he dined in a large and elegant party, where the lady of the house asked a blessing and returned thanks. He was a week at one house where the eldest daughter of a family, about twenty two, led in the family worship every morning, and constantly said grace at the table, and so in several other instances.

Mr. Colman has a strange faculty of observation. We expect that it is very seldom that children are called upon to say Grace in England any more than in the United States, and do not believe that the piety of the young ladies, is of a higher kind than that of our American girls, although the above would lead us to believe that *he did*.

Genius and Reality.

At a sale of choice autographs in London, a letter from James the Second "for my sonne Prince George of Denmark" in good condition with seal and silk—brought £2 12s. Two letters in the hand-writing of Keats, brought respectively £2 15s. and £2 17s. 6d. Truly science is a leveller.

Chinese Burial-Place.

No people profess so much veneration for the memory of their fathers as the Chinese; and the worship of their tombs is the most solemn, and apparently sincere, ceremonial in the shape of religious worship, they exhibit. In order to perform its rites, men (women take no part in it) who emigrate to distant lands often return, at much expense and trouble, to the place of their birth; and their fond clinging to the memory of the dead more than love for its institution seems, and is said to be, the strong bond that binds the Chinese to their country. But they have no consecrated place of interment; and if they have any rite analogous to episcopal consecration, it must be so simple and easily executed as to have effect any where. At any rate, they have no accumulation of graves in particular enclosed spots; they do not set apart a few acres for that purpose and surround them with walls, separating the silent tenants from the living world, and forming a great prison-house for the dead. On the other hand, every one chooses the spot he likes best for the final resting place of those he loved. The country residents bury their dead on their own land, often very close to their own dwellings. On the hill-sides, especially in stony, barren places, are seen tombs and graves, thinly scattered in rural districts and more numerous in the neighborhood of towns. The choice is wise, and its effects any thing but unpleasant to the eye. The tombs are often of porphyry, finished with some minute chiselling, and sometimes in tolerable monumental taste. Placed on rocky eminences, often in particularly picturesque situations under the shadow of cedars and cypresses, they present every where objects of pleasing, perhaps profitable contemplation.

Do not Despise Small Things.

The possibility of a great change being introduced by very slight beginnings, may be illustrated by a tale which Lockman tells of a vizier, who having offended his master, was condemned to perpetual captivity in a lofty tower. At night his wife came to weep below his window. "Cease your grief," said the sage; "go home for the present and return hither when you have procured a live beetle, together with a little ghee (or buffalo's butter), three clews one of the finest silk, another of stout pack thread, another of whipcord; finally, a stout coil of rope." When she came again to the foot of the tower, provided according to her husband's commands, he directed her to touch the head of the insect with a little of the ghee, to tie one end of the silk thread around him, and to place the reptile on the wall of the tower. Seduced by the smell of the butter, which he conceived to be in store somewhere above him, the beetle continued to ascend till he reached the top and thus put the vizier in possession of the end of the thread, and drew up the packthread by means of the silk, the small cord by means of the packthread, and by means of the cord a stout rope capable of sustaining his weight—and so at last escaped from the place of his duress.

Riches and Poverty.

That poverty is a real evil would be absurd to deny, and that it is the parent of many other evils, moral no less than physical, experience teaches and will for ever teach us. Not only that poverty which stands between its victims and the common comforts, also the necessities, of life, is thus pregnant with sorrow and sin; but that which closes the access to every elegant enjoyment, and binds down to petty cares and anxieties the time, the thought, the whole spirit. But to believe that the reverse of all this in itself is happiness, is to have little experience indeed of life with all its varieties of pain and disappointment—of blighted hopes—of unavailing repentance. Some who have never known what it is to possess riches believe that the power of dispensing them must and does bring happiness; but in vain does "the widow's heart sing for joy" if no chord in the breast of her benefactor echoes to the sound of her rejoicings—if he feels that there are evils much worse than poverty. If personal regrets have closed the heart to sympathy, he may be benificent but the blessings of beneficence do not return upon him.