



Singular Fall of Ice.

A curious phenomenon, says one of our foreign exchanges, recently took place at the farm of Balvulich, Scotland. Immediately after one of the loudest peals of thunder ever heard there, a large and irregular shaped mass of ice, reckoned to be nearly twenty feet in circumference, and a proportionate thickness, fell near the farm-house. It had a beautiful crystalline appearance, being nearly all quite transparent, if we except a small portion of it which consisted of hailstones of uncommon size, fixed together. It was principally composed of small squares—diamond-shaped—of from one to three inches in size, all firmly congealed together. The weight of this large piece of ice could not be ascertained; but it is a most fortunate circumstance that it did not fall on Mr. Moffat's house, or it would have crushed it, and undoubtedly have caused the death of some of the inmates. No appearance whatever of either hail or snow was discernible in the surrounding district.

The Rice Crops.

The Savannah Georgian has the following information in relation to the rice crops of that State:

"For the last few days the weather has been most delightful for the season. The rains of last week have been succeeded by dry harvesting weather. The health of the city, as well as on the rice plantations, is remarkably good. The diarrhoea, or cholera, which existed for some time upon the plantation, has disappeared entirely.

"The planters are now preparing to harvest their rice; two or three commenced day before yesterday. We are informed that the grain will generally be ready during the remainder of the present month. At the south, on the Ogeechee, Altamaha, and Satilla rivers, planters commenced harvesting a few days ago. The health in those sections is as good as it is upon the Savannah river.

New Jersey Zinc Mine.

The ore procured by the Sussex Company from the zinc mine recently opened at Mine-hill, N. J., is said to be uncommonly rich, containing about 80 per cent of red oxide of zinc and fracklinite, in nearly equal proportions. The zinc is very pure, and strikingly superior to the imported article, being free from sulphur, arsenic, and other impurities. Reduced to an oxide, it is a fine white paint. The iron is remarkable for its fineness and tenacity. The ore is supposed to be inexhaustible.

Great Reptiles.

Two large Boa Constrictors have arrived in this City, from the River Amazon, in South America; the larger of the two, a beautiful Boa Constrictor, measures full 20 feet in length, we are told; and the other, an Ananconda, about 15 feet. The whole province of Para, Brazil, where these huge reptiles were captured, is covered with woods and almost impenetrable jungles, which form a shelter for thousands of gigantic serpents. The two just imported are stated to be the largest ever brought from South America.

Burlington and Boston Railroad.

The Burlington and Boston Railway will be opened this week to Middlebury, from Lake Champlain, and in January, the whole road will be completed and the cars running. The Whitehall and Rutland Railroad, now under contract, will connect with this work at Rutland, and form a continuous railroad communication from East-Albany to Burlington.

The Lost Navigator.

Lady Franklin has purchased one-fourth of the Hull whaling ship Abram, and paid the additional risks for insurance, with a view to her exploring Jones' Sound and Smith's Sounding, and search for Sir John. She has also offered a reward of £500 in case of success.

A Runaway Husband.

A young lady of respectable family, living near Schenectady, N. Y., recently got married to a man who pretended to be a Lieut. in the U. S. Navy. When he was taking his bride home, he ran away and left her at Albany, because he had no home, we suppose to take her to. It has since turned out that instead of being a Lieut. in the U. S. Navy, he has recently belonged to some flying circus. We do not know whether to extend pity, or not to the more deceived wife. We are afraid that too many daughters receive an education the very reverse of what they should get. They are taught to seek happiness in gewgaws, lace, dash, idleness, and show. They too often choose men who carry their brains on their back, and who after they get married drop them down in the heels of their boots. Why did not the disappointed make diligent inquiry about her intended, and take more time to find out who he was? If she had done so, she would not now be repenting at leisure for her hasty marriage. Old Mass. has the best system yet, to

"Cry them three times in the Church;
Before they wedded be."

Business in New York.

Business in this city has taken a decidedly favorable change. The machine shops are beginning to spur up, and no doubt but a good fall business will follow in the wake of a summer of unusual depression in every branch of business. The cholera has, no doubt, been the principal cause of it. The Novelty Works, the Allaire and Secor's are now very busy. Two engines are building at Secor's for steamboats to run on the Oneida Lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the world.

Propellers.

A writer in the U. S. Gazette, says, that—The steamship Columbus left Philadelphia August 1st, for Charleston, making two round trips, arriving in our city on Saturday afternoon last. She burnt but one hundred and twelve tons of coal during the four passages carrying large and heavy cargoes each way. To compare the principle of propelling ocean ships with the propeller, the owners of the Columbus challenge "any side wheel" ship afloat to show any equal performance at the same expense, comparing tonnage carried, and speed.

Unwashed French Ladies.

An American lady writing from Paris, says that she has lately discovered the secret of the many beautiful and brilliant complexions seen in that city. It seems that water is considered by the French ladies as the great spoiler of the skin, so that unless some untoward circumstance really soils their faces, they are not touched with water from one week's end to another. The owners content themselves with gentle rubbing with a dry, coarse towel, and exclude water almost entirely from their toilette tables.

Diving Bell Company.

A company has been formed in this city, with a capital of \$100,000, in shares of \$100, for the purpose of conducting mining operations by means of Worster's Diving Bell, which is supposed to afford peculiar facilities for working the beds of rivers and deep water. [See Engraving of the apparatus in Sci. Am. Vol. 4, No. 40.]

Arkansas Marble.

The Little Rock (Ark.) Democrat says that fine black marble has been discovered near the head of steamboat navigation on White river. It appears on the bank on either side of the stream.

A Large Watermelon.

The Alabama Argus has been shown a watermelon of uncommon size, from the plantation of a friend, which weighed seventy-three pounds and a quarter, and measured eighteen feet six inches in circumference, and twelve feet nine inches in diameter.

M. Babinet says, that rain is caused by a mass of damp air rising into an atmosphere of less pressure than at the place from whence the damp air had risen, by first dilating, then cooling and forming into a liquid.

A man who had lived much in society, said that his acquaintances would fill a cathedral, but that a pulpit would hold all his friends.

Hazlitt's Advice to his Son.

Do not begin to quarrel with the world too soon, for bad as it may be, it is the best we have to live in here. If railing would have made it better, it would have been reformed long ago; but as this is not to be hoped for at present, the best way to slide through it is as contentedly and innocently as we may. The worst fault it has is want of charity; and calling knave or fool at every turn will not cure this failing. Consider as a matter of vanity, that if their were not so many knaves and fools as we find, the wise and honest would not be those rare shining characters that they are allowed to be; and, as a matter of philosophy, that if the world be really incorrigible in this respect, it is a reflection to make one sad, and not angry. We may laugh or weep at the madness of mankind, we have no right to vilify them for our own sake or theirs. Misanthropy is not the disgust of the mind at human nature, but with itself; for it is laying its own exaggerated vices as foul blot on the door of others! Do not mistake what I have here said. I would not have you, when you grow up, adopt the low and sordid fashion of palliating existing abuses, of putting the best face upon the worst things. I only mean that indiscriminate, unqualified satire can do little good; and those who indulge in the most revolting speculations of human nature, do not themselves always set the fairest examples, or strive to prevent its lower degradation.

Experiments on Gunpowder.

Maj. Mordecai, of the Ordnance Department, has published his second report of experiments upon gunpowder, made at the Washington Arsenal. The Intelligencer says: This Report contains a synopsis of his experiments with the ballistic pendulum, since the year 1844, and will be found, by those who take an interest in such matters, to contain much valuable information. The object which the Major has had in view, have been first, to ascertain the smallest caliber of gun which may be relied on to give satisfactory results, in using the ballistic pendulum as an instrument of using gunpowder; secondly, to ascertain the initial velocities of balls fired from field guns and howitzers with various charges; thirdly, to ascertain the charge of maximum effect, and also the relative force of a given charge, in guns of various lengths of bore; fourthly, to extend the experiments on the windage of balls, in order further to develop the law of variation of the force of charge with various windages; fifthly, to extend the experiments on balls of various weights, in order to compare the force of the charge, with different weights of ball, in its effect on the gun, as well as on the shot. The report also contains a record of experiments on the Explosive Cotton.

Iron Storehouses for California.

Messrs. Reany, Neafe & Co., of Phila. says the Ledger, are now engaged in preparing an iron warehouse for the Messrs. Aspinwall, which will be shipped on board the ship Stephen Baldwin, now loading by that firm for California. The dimensions of the store will be 50 feet long, 40 wide, and two and a half stories, or 45 feet high at the apex of the roof. There are to be four doors, one on each side and end, and 36 windows. The iron plates to form the sides are to be pierced for the rivets, fitted, marked, and numbered, so that on arriving out the whole can be put up in a very short space of time. At each corner there are to be cast iron columns, of the proper patterns, and studs of the same material are to be placed on either side of the windows and doors of both stories, to which the iron plates will be riveted. There are also to be cast iron columns, running along the centre of both stories. The flooring will be of wood, the lumber for which will be shipped along with the store. The roof will be formed of galvanized iron, the sheets of which will be fitted, so that there will be little trouble in doing this portion of the work on arriving out. The doors and windows and the frames are all to be made of cast iron. The whole weight of the edifice, it is estimated, will not be more than 30,000 pounds.

He that would rise to distinction by false means, never can feel the sweets of conscience applause.

Graefenburg Dysentery Syrup.

We have seldom, if ever, during the publication of the Scientific American, made attempts to puff up the thousand and one nostrums that are presented to the public in the shape of cure-all quack medicines. The reasons are, that having no confidence in them ourselves, we did not feel at liberty to recommend our friends to wash their systems out with the filthy compounds. During the prevalence of the cholera in our city, when almost every person was more or less afflicted with symptoms approaching cholera—ourselves, with many others, felt the necessity of having some preventative to use in case of a sudden attack. From the statements made by several of our friends, we placed our reliance upon the Graefenburg Dysentery Syrup, and had occasion to try it several times among our employees, with the most gratifying success. This warrants us in expressing our firm conviction that this Syrup stands at the head of any preparation within our knowledge for bowel complaints. We are glad to learn that this company (which is composed of excellent men) are highly successful in their efforts to furnish anti-humbug medicines. We can only speak in favor of the Dysentery Syrup, without asking the necessity of using their Vegetable Pills, Green Mountain Ointment, Eye Lotion, Consumption Balm, &c.

Manufactures of Connecticut.

Connecticut, though but the twenty-eighth in size of the States of the Union, holds probably about the sixth place in rank as to the amount of manufacturing carried on within its limits. In that State late returns show the following results: There are 137 cotton mills, consuming yearly 13,319,170 pounds of cotton, and manufacturing 33,431,985 yards of cloth, 1,872,863 pounds of yarn, 70,000 dozen spools of thread, 608,547 pounds of batting, 30,000 dozen sheets of pelisse wadding, 47,817 yards of cotton flannel. The amount of capital invested is \$3,312,450. There are 2,312 males, and 3,050 females employed in this business.

Early Marriages.

Two correspondents have been supplying the National Intelligencer with their ideas about early marriages. One advocates early marriages, the other proves to a demonstration, (in his own way,) that all the great geniuses that have ever lived, are living or intend to live, have been, are, and must be, the youngest children. In respect to such erudition, Dominie Sampson would say, "prodigious."

Nine married ladies beat nine single ones at a game of wicket in England recently. The gamblers were all dressed in white—the married party with blue trimmings and the others with pink.

There is a negress on the estate of J. C. Calhoun, aged 112 years. She was brought from Africa, and has been in his family for a century. She has 63 descendants, all living on the same plantation.

Among the improvement at Niagara Falls, this season, is the erection of a tower at the chasm about four miles from the village of the Falls. Upon its top is an observatory, and the panoramic view is said to be very extensive and magnificent.

The baptismal admonition of the Hindoos is as impressive on the by-standers as it is beautiful:—Little babe, thou enterest the world weeping, while all around you smile; contrive so to live that you may depart in smiles whilst all around you weep.

Philosophical happiness is to want little and to enjoy much: vulgar happiness is want much and enjoy little.

It is in vain to regret a misfortune when it is past retrieving, but few have philosophy or strength enough to practise it.

One line, and one fraught with instruction, includes the secret of final success—be prudent, be patient, and be persevering.

Go to strangers for charity, acquaintances advice, and to relatives for nothing—and you will always have a supply.