

Miscellaneous.

Animalculæ of the Sea.

There are many delicate and fragile animals which live at great depths in the sea, often from 2000 to 3000 feet below its surface. These creatures, therefore have to sustain the pressure of a column of water of that height, a pressure of from 60 to 90 times greater than that of the atmosphere upon our bodies. Yet these animals are not crushed, they move about with perfect ease, under circumstances still more surprising than those under which we live.—And the reason is, that this hydrostatic pressure is equal on all sides; the bodies of these animals are equally pressed above, below, and around, and the fluids within the animal are also either of similar density, or they are nearly incompressible, that all the different pressures counterbalance each other. In the same manner the fluid atmosphere presses equally in all directions, and the human body immersed in it may be compared to a sponge plunged into deep water; it is not crushed, because the water fills the cavities of the sponge, and also surrounds it entirely. In like manner our bodies, and even our bones, are filled either with liquids capable of sustaining pressure, or with air of the same density as the external air, so that the outward is counteracted by the inward pressure. Now let us see what are the consequences of removing this pressure. Some fishes, which live at a great depth in the sea, are provided with swimming bladders, or little bags full of air. On raising them to the surface, the water pressure is removed, and the bladder expands to such a degree as to kill the creatures instantly.

Useful Lectures.

The Rev. Henry Giles, so popular as a lecturer, is now fulfilling an engagement made with him by the mercantile Library Association, and has commenced a series of five lectures on the agencies in social culture, classified in five distinct subjects, viz., Books, Conversation, Music, Love of the beautiful, and Ideas of Manliness. The first and second of the series were delivered on the evenings of the 13th and 20th inst. at Clinton Hall, before a large and intelligent audience. Mr. Giles' reputation as an original thinker, and felicitous speaker, is a sufficient guaranty that these lectures will amply reward all who may listen to him. His discourse upon the subject of Books was a masterly performance, abounding in elevating thought and sound argument calculated to make an indelible impression upon thinking minds. We hope our friends will not miss an intellectual treat, of such a high character. The three remaining lectures will be delivered every Tuesday evening until completed, at Clinton Hall.

Gas—Reduction—Imposition.

The bill of gas for The Tribune Office for the month of October, 1848, was \$102. The rose in gas was then at 70 cents per 100 feet.

A great display has been made about the reduction of prices since the Company have got into their new buildings, and the rates were fixed at 50 cents for coal gas. The result is, the October bill for 1849 amounts to \$173 15. We consider these prices a shameful imposition on the public, and we shall be greatly disappointed if some public action be not taken to compel the Company to furnish gas at the prices it is furnished in other cities or to annul their charter.—[N. Y. Tribune.

[We believe that good gas might be produced in this city for one half of the price now charged.

A Piebald Negro.

There is a colored man belonging to Wilmington county, Del., now trading, we believe on board of a shallow between that city and Philadelphia, who is in color both white and black. He is covered over with white spots (as white as the fairest white man,) from the size of a dollar to several inches, and even feet in length and breadth. There is a white ring round each of his eyes, and also white round his mouth, one half of one of his arms is white. His predominant color is black, only about a third being white.

Natural Creation and the Law of Races.

Do the relations which exist in nature, show satisfactorily that all classes of animals, and all individual animals are partial expressions of a general thought and manifestations of immaterial reality, of a plan laid out by a supreme Intelligence?

To establish the affirmative of this question, the various types of animals are not evolved from one another; yet, they are the consecutive stages in one plan. All animals, therefore, are separated into classes, which can have no common material origin; yet they belong to one plan, and point to a common issue of their series.

There are four types of animal existence, inseparably distinct, Radiata, Mollusca, Articulata and Vertebrata, we approach this conclusion by asking whether there is an intellectual connection between the types thus materially separate and incommunicable, showing that they are the connection of a preconceived, and hence intelligent and intended plan, laid out before their creation, and carried out in reality, in a succession of types?

In the succession of organized beings, we find such a progress, that tracing all these relations we arrive at man at last. He is, by structure, the highest. He is in the order of succession, the last. And as we have traced all these different connections with reference to the plan laid out at the beginning, at what conclusion do we arrive in the most direct manner? It is, that the creation of man was the aim of the plan from the beginning. And a higher view, and without any reference to utilitarian considerations, we may say that this world has been made for man; for man was the object which the Creator had in view, when he formed the plan for the development of this globe. And if this be the case, let us never forget what a responsibility it throws upon us, to be the object of such a development, and the close of such a magnificent construction; and let that be the fullest evidence that man was created in the image of his God.—PROF. AGASSIZ.

Singular Freak of Lightning.

We learn from the Pottsville (Pa.) Emporium that during a recent thunder-storm in that place, the fluid struck the roof of a building, passed down the front and divided, passing in on both sides of the front door, through which it entered into the store, where Mr. Francis Benseman and Mr. Snyder were standing. It struck Mr. Snyder on the shoulder, completely stripping the clothes from that portion of his person, passed down his side, across his abdomen, through his pantaloons pocket where was some silver change, thence down his leg and cut through a very considerable hole which it burned in the bottom of his boot, and disappeared through the floor. Mr. Snyder was stricken down senseless and apparently dead, in which condition he remained, until some of the neighbors carried him out into the rain, which in a few minutes caused him to revive.

Mr. Benseman was also stricken down senseless, but revived very soon, and creeping to the door, opened it making his way into the air so confused, however, by the violence of the shock as to be unconscious whither he went. His right side was considerably paralyzed.

The building was shattered from the roof to its foundation, and it seems really miraculous that the inmates were not instantly killed.—They represent that at the instant of the shock they felt as if thrown into a heated furnace, and the smell of sulphur was utterly overpowering.

Years.

Neither rouge, artificial ringlets, nor all the resources of the toilet, can retard the relentless progress of that terrible foe to beauty, Time. But every one must have noticed how lightly his hand sets upon some, how heavily upon others. Whenever you see in an old person a smooth, unwrinkled forehead, a clear eye, and a pleasing, cheerful expression, be sure her life has been passed in that comparative tranquillity of mind, which depends less upon outward vicissitudes than internal peace of mind. A good conscience is the greatest preservative of beauty. Whenever you see pinched-up features, full of lines, and thin, curling lips, you may judge

of petty passions, envy and ambition, which have worn out their owner. High and noble thoughts leave behind them noble and beautiful traces; meanness of thought and selfishness of feeling league with Time to unite age and ugliness together. Fresh air, pure, simple food, and exercise, mental and bodily, with an elevated ambition, will confer on the greatest age a dignified beauty, in which youth is deficient. There are many men and women, at sixty, younger in appearance and feeling than others at forty.

Hills Against Level Lands.

A correspondent of the Gardener's (Eng.) Chronicle says:

"In a lecture on land surveying by a French Professor of mathematics, at the college at Blois, the lecturer informed his audience that in the purchase of hilly or uneven land, its extent is estimated or measured, not according to the area of the surface, but according to the area of its horizontal base; "because," he added, "it is a well known fact in agriculture, that no more can be grown on a hill or slope, than on a horizontal piece of land equal to its base." Now, as this "well known fact" is not only not well known, but even strongly, though in my opinion absurdly, disputed amongst many of our Yorkshire farmers, perhaps you will be kind enough to give it publicity in your next number. Perhaps of moss and other low or creeping plants, a greater crop may be grown on a slope than on a horizontal piece of land equal to its base; but with regard to vertically growing plants such as hay-grass, corn or trees, it appears to me the French professor, was perfectly correct."

Domestic Endearments.

I hold it indeed to be a sure sign of a mind not poised as it ought to be, if it be insensible to the pleasures of home, to the little joys and endearments of a family, to the affection of relations, to the fidelity of domestics. Next to being well with his own conscience, the friendship and attachment of a man's family and dependants seems to me one of the most comfortable circumstances of his lot. His situation, with regard to either, forms that sort of bosom comfort or disquiet that sticks close to him at all times and seasons, and which, though he may now and then forget it, amidst the bustle of public or the hurry of active life, will resume its place in his thoughts, and its permanent effects on his happiness, at every pause of ambition or of business.

Chinese in California.

The population of San Francisco is composed of representatives from every quarter of the globe, and among the rest are a number of Chinese, who have come over in the character of housebuilders. They are represented to be very quiet and exceedingly industrious. They have brought the frames of their buildings along with them, which are generally about 20 feet square—one story in height—and 12 feet from the floor to the ceiling. The timbers are round, and many of them very crooked. The price of a Chinese building, such as described, including erection, is \$1500. The building, however, consists of simply the frame and covering. They are brought from Hong-Kong.

London New Coal Exchange.

The floor of this edifice consists of upwards of 4,000 pieces of wood, of various kinds and qualities. The great feature of the affair is, that the whole of these pieces were only a few months since either in the tree of the growing state, or cut from wet logs, and were prepared for use in the course of a few days by a new process of seasoning. The names of the wood thus introduced are black ebony, black oak, common and red English oak, wainscot, white holly, mahogany, American elm, red and white walnut (French and English), and mulberry.

Hertz Ben Pinchase, a learned writer in the Jewish Chronicle, predicts that in less than a century a Jew will be President of the French Republic; that in half a century America will be ruled by a son of Abraham and that in less than a quarter of a century the Lord Mayor of London will worship at the synagogue.

Notice.

We must again call upon our friends to be particular, when they address us, to give the name of the Town, County, and State in which they reside, in a clear and legible hand. It saves us much trouble, to which we are otherwise subjected. The law requires of publishers to be very particular in directing their papers; this is necessary, especially where the town is small and little known. We are often bothered to decipher the name of correspondents—this is particularly annoying.

To Prevent Steam Boiler Incrustation.

We see it stated that a Mr. Williams, in England, proposes to prevent incrustations by pouring a small quantity of coal-tar into the water just before the steam is to be put up.—This substance, when thrown into boiling water, parts with all its volatile constituents, and its carbon is, as a crust, deposited upon all sides of the boiler with singular uniformity adhering with great firmness to the iron plates by the peculiar action of the force which apto condense fluid matter on solid surfaces.—Thus a kind of graphite coating is formed, which protects the iron most effectually from corrosion.

The Benefits of Travel.

One of the chief delights and benefits of travel is that we are perpetually meeting men of great abilities, of original mind, and rare acquirements, who will converse without reserve. In these discourses the intellect makes daring leaps and marvellous advances. The tone that colours our after life is often caught in these chance colloquies, and the bent given that shapes our career.

To Destroy The Wire Worm.

To destroy the wire worm which is oftentimes very destructive to turnip and other crops, take about 100 bushels of lime per acre, broken to the size of a hazel nut, spread over the ground, and turned in with the plough,—the heat occasioned by the first shower destroys the insect, while the land has the benefit of the manure.

St. Michael Oranges.

Many of the trees bear at a hundred years old, the highly prized thin-skinned orange, full of juice, and free from pips. The thinness of the rind of a St. Michael's orange and its freedom from pips, depend on the age of the tree. The young trees, when in full vigor, bear fruit with a thick pulpy rind and an abundance of seeds; but as the vigor of the plant declines, the peel becomes thinner, and the seeds gradually diminish in number until they disappear altogether.

Terrible Steamboat Explosion.

At New Orleans on the 16th inst., the boiler of the Steamboat Louisiana exploded as she was leaving the wharf and nearly 200 persons are supposed to be killed. This is one of the most terrible accidents that has occurred in our country. After all the Reports made to Congress, and all the laws made to prevent such accidents here is a crushing argument against the employment of high pressure. The captain has been arrested.

The Dumfries Standard, Scotland, states that a small grey plant found in mossy situations, and popularly known as the "flower of moss," has proved efficacious in curing hydrophobia. An example is related. Fifteen cows were bitten and became furious; fourteen drank a decoction of the flower and survived; the fifteen received none and died.

The boilers and cylinder of the steamer Neptune, sunk in the bed below the mouth of the Ohio, in the year 1829, were raised by the bell boats Submarine, Nelson and Eads, who are now wrecking her. They have not got at her valuable cargo, said to be lead—a large amount of specie. The wreck lies in twenty-eight feet water, and is filled with sand and drift wood.

The enterprising publisher of Scott's Weekly Paper, Philadelphia, announces his intention to enlarge, and, as he says, increase the attractions of his excellent paper. We think this unnecessary. In our opinion it is now one of the best, and certainly one of the cheapest, literaries in the country.