

Miscellaneous.

Singular Adventure with a Rattlesnake.

A young man named Geo. Keller, in Union Township, Berks Co. Pa., on the 5th ult., came across a large rattlesnake; arming himself with a stick he made for the reptile and pinned it fast, after two-thirds of its body had disappeared between the rocks. He then very coolly took out his knife, and proceeded to cut off the rattles, but while in the act, the head of the snake found an opening in the rock, and with its body fast, reached round and bit him on the point of one of his fingers. He immediately cut out the bitten part, and wound a string tightly round the finger to prevent the circulation of the poison through his system. The hand and arm soon became enormously swollen. After severe suffering, in which the young man became almost blind, the physicians succeeded in placing him beyond the reach of danger. One of the first acts, after his recovery, was to visit the scene of this disaster, where he found the snake still pinned to the rock. This time he made sure work by killing it outright.

Liabilities of Railroad Conductors.

E. C. Thompson was recently tried at Dover, N. H. upon an indictment for assault and battery, in ejecting a man and his wife from the cars of the Boston and Maine Railroad, at Madbury, who refused to give up their tickets.—The Court instructed the jury that for the purpose of this trial the company had a right to make regulations for their convenience; also if they thought the conductor used more than reasonable violence in ejecting the man from the cars, the Jury might bring in a verdict of guilty. The Jury after a few hours consideration, returned a verdict of not guilty. It was proved that the conductor suffered a little upon the occasion from the teeth and finger nails of the women who was taken out.

Another Telegraph Line to Boston.

The telegraph line to Boston via New-Haven, Hartford, Norwich and Providence, using Bain's instruments, and built under the superintendence of Henry O'Reilly, Esq., has been completed. The stockholders are men of large capital, and place unlimited means in the hands of the builders to make it strictly a first-class line, and the proof that it is so, is found that in the fact that instantly the last mile of wire was up the line worked through to Boston perfectly. The office in Wall-st, is elegantly fitted up with plate glass, mahogany furniture, &c.

The tariff of charges will be much lower than on the old line, and the business of telegraphing will now be conducted on liberal terms.

There are now three lines of telegraph between this City and Boston.

This line will be extended to Halifax during the Winter and Spring, and the line from Washington to New York will be completed in about two weeks.

Ohio Cheese.

Large quantities of Ohio cheese are annually taken to and sold at Boston, at good remunerating prices. Quantities of it are also taken to and sold in England. The qualities sent to Boston and England are pronounced equal to any made in the world. This quality of cheese not only pays the manufacturer well, but the cost of transport 1,000 miles, as well as the retailer—and yet the consumer is pleased in obtaining a superior article at so fair a rate.

Odd Fellows.

The split which has existed for nearly two years between the New Constitution Lodges and the Old Constitution, in this State, has been settled by the Grand Lodge of the United States, at Baltimore, by ordaining two Grand Lodges for this State, which is to be divided by the Judiciary Districts.

Four ships, the Jas. Connor of Baltimore, Garrick of New York, Forest King of Boston, and the Saranac of Philadelphia, left Liverpool on their last voyage together, and never were out of sight of one another during the whole voyage across.

The Lard and Oil Business of Cincinnati.

In Cincinnati it is calculated that about 11,000,000 lbs of lard will be run into lard oil this year, two-sevenths of which aggregate will make stearine, the residue oil, say about 20,000 barrels of 42 gallons each. Much the larger share of this is of inferior lard, made of mast-fed and still-fed hogs, the material, to a great extent, coming from a distance—hence the poor quality of western lard oil. Lard oil, besides being sold for what it actually is, is also used for adulterating sperm oil, and in France serves to materially reduce the cost of olive oil, the skill of the French chemist enabling them to incorporate from 60 to 70 per cent. of lard oil with that of the olive. There is also an establishment in that city which besides putting up hams, &c., is extensively engaged in extracting the grease from the rest of the hog, and will probably this year operate in this way on 30,000 hogs. It has seven large circular tanks, six of capacity to hold each 15,000 lbs., and one 6,000 lbs. These receive the entire carcass with the exception of the hams, and the mass is subjected to the steam process, under a pressure of 70 lbs. to the square inch, the effect of which operation is to reduce the whole to one consistence, and every bone to powder. The fat is drawn off by cocks, and the residum, a mere earthy substance, is taken away for manure. Besides the hogs which reach this factory in entire carcasses, the great mass of heads, ribs, back bones, tail-pieces, feet, and other trimmings of the hogs cut up at different pork-houses, are subjected to the same process, in order to extract every particle of grease. This concern only is expected to turn out this season 3,000,000 lbs. of lard, five-sixths of which is No. 1. Six hundred hogs daily pass through these tanks one day with another.

The stearine expressed from the lard is used to make candles for being subjected to hydraulic pressure, by which three-eighths of it are discharged as an impure oleine; this last is employed in the manufacture of soap. 3,000,000 lbs. of stearine have been made in one year into candles and soap in these factories, and they can make 6,000 lbs. of candles per average day throughout the year.

Hints to Bald Headed.

A refined civilization brings with it a train of physical evils, which it is in the province of science to control or subdue. Our tight hats, our warm rooms, closely fitting caps, silk night-caps, from which the perspirable matter cannot escape, by their combined agency, in connection with other influences not always easy to define, bring off the hair prematurely, and turn it gray, sooner than personal vanity is willing to exhibit such evidences of decay. And this is not all, the skin is actually in a low state of disease, the effects of which are recognized in the accumulation of drandruff—desquamation of the epidermis. The bulbs of the hairs are inflamed, also from the same cause, and from year to year the hair degenerates and becomes thinner, and not unfrequently ending in baldness. On all that part of the head not covered—viz.: from the backside, between the ears and on the temples—the hair generally remains to extreme old age, however much the vortex may be denuded. If females wore equally tight coverings, their hair would probably suffer very much in the same manner; but their light airy bobinets admit of ventilation, and hence a bald-headed woman would be a phenomenon. Who ever saw a bald-headed Indian? We have had an opportunity of seeing various tribes, in all the freedom of their unrestrained savage life—but a sparse head of hair we have never noticed. Atmospheric exposure conduces to the luxuriance of the hair and a healthy condition of the scalp.

[The above is from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. We copy it because we do not believe that it is sound. A bald-headed female is not a phenomenon, and there are plenty of bald-headed men who never wore a night-cap all their lives, and who lost their hair at an early age; and we know of a case at present that cannot in any possible way be attributed to any of the causes mentioned above. There are some races, and there are individuals, who constitutionally have more capillary energy than others. There are dif-

ferences in these things, just as there are in those who have flat and those who have beautifully arched feet. The remedies for baldness and toothache are innumerable. Cleanliness and healthful exercise are, no doubt, good preservatives; but fevers and other diseases, we believe, are the principal causes of this evil,—and this puts us in mind to give a most excellent receipt for making dandruff fly. Take an ounce of borax and dissolve it in three quarts of water and a little spirits. Wash the head with some of this every second morning, and take our word for it the dandruff will soon be like the Dutchman's geese, "found missing." This should be kept for a constant wash. Those who wish to dye their hair or whiskers black can do so by making the nitrate of silver into a paste with water, and applying it to the hair. It is no doubt hurtful to the growth of the hair, but those who are foolish enough to try the experiment can do so, only they will find out that the trouble will overpay them for the pleasure.

The Colonies of Great Britain.

The North American Possessions of Great Britain, which include Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Bermuda, entailed a total expense, for the five years ending the 31st March, 1847, of £2,646,094 for the pay of troops and commissariat expenses; our West Indian possessions entailed, during the same period, a cost of £1,779,337 for the same purposes; our Mediterranean and African possessions, including Gibraltar, Malta, the Ionian Islands, the Cape Colony, Sierra Leone, Gambia, the settlements on the Gold Coast, and St. Helena, entailed an expense of £3,170,988; and the Australian and miscellaneous possessions an expense of £2,052,935. It follows that the colonial empire of Great Britain entailed upon the mother country for the five years ending the 31st of March, 1847, a gross total cost of £9,742,354, solely for the pay of her Majesty's troops and for commissariat expenses, being on an average nearly £2,000,000 per annum.

[The above is from the European Times, and the statement might lead many people to believe that Great Britain had shelled the money out of her own pocket; but how did she get it? From her colonies. Take them away and what would be her commerce?

A Deserted Village.

Nearly half-way between Millville and Tuckaboe, N. J., the traveller suddenly leaves the almost interminable waste of stunted pine and oak, the long sandy road, and the oppressive heat, and, as if by magic, a romantic hamlet, nestling beside a lake, bursts upon the view. Here he may rest his jaded horses beneath the overhanging willows and enjoy the scene to his heart's content. The village is known as "Cumberland Works," and consists of about twenty-five cottages, with several spacious buildings, once occupied as Mills, Iron Foundries, Forges, etc. But a deep and impressive silence now hangs over the place; the tenements are dilapidated and leaning as if ready to fall to the earth. The water-wheels are motionless; the furnaces are no longer glowing; the trip hammer, that great heart which once beat night and day, has ceased its pulsations, and all save beauty has departed. The Iron Works were formerly conducted by Edward Smith, Esq., of Camden, but owing to the rapid decrease of timber in the neighborhood, were abandoned some thirteen years since. The timber is now rapidly growing, and if the above was the only reason for blowing out the fires, it will not much longer exist. No one can stop to water his horses by the

"Moss-covered bucket which hangs in the well," or linger a moment beneath the drooping willows, without calling to mind in its full force and meaning, Goldsmith's admirable description of "The Deserted Village."

Ireland and Her Misery.

An article in Blackwood says that at least 250,000 persons perished by famine in Ireland, in 1847, in consequence of the loss of the potato crop, notwithstanding the British government expended fifty millions of dollars in purchasing food for the population, and extensive donations were received from abroad.

Hats, Hats.

Persons attending the Fair, will find their appearance very much improved by wearing one of Knox's superb hats. We tried the experiment a few days since with the most gratifying result. Knox is a mechanic, and knows how the materials should be combined to produce, not only an elegant appearing hat, but one that always pays the wearer for the money expended. What adds more to the wardrobe of a gentleman, than a good hat? We answer, nothing.

Notice.

N. P. Greene, of Nashua, N. H., J. Gillespie, of Geneva, N. Y., and Samuel R. Tufts, of Milwaukee, Wis., are authorized Agents for the Scientific American. Any business intrusted to them will meet prompt attention.

Paine's Electric Light.

We have received a communication from Mr. Paine, on this subject, which will appear next week.

Fatination of Danger.

At the siege of Gibraltar, Lieutenant Lowe of the 12th regiment, a superintendent of the working parties, lost his leg by a shot, on the slope of the hill under the castle. He saw the shot before the fatal effect, but was fascinated to the spot. This sudden arrest of the faculties was not uncommon. Several instances occurred to my own observation, where men totally free have had their senses so engaged by a shell in its descent, that though sensible of their danger, even so far as to cry for assistance, they have been immovably fixed to the place. But what is more remarkable, the men have so instantaneously recovered themselves on its fall to the ground, as to remove to a place of safety before the shell burst.

Women Stronger than Oxen.

A distinguished physician says: I anticipate the period, when the fairest portion of the fair creation will step forth unencumbered with slabs of walnut and tiers of whalebone.—The constitution of our females must be first rate to withstand in any tolerable degree the terrible inflictions of the corset eight long hours every day. No animal could survive it. Take the honest ox, and enclose his sides with hoop poles, put an oak plank beneath him, and gird the whole with a bed cord and demand of him labor. He would labor indeed but it would be for breath.

A Curious Fact.

The whole population of the United States could be compressed into the space of one mile square, and each individual be allowed sufficient room to breathe in. Fifteen inches square would suffice for this. There are 1760 yards in a mile, which multiplied, give 63,360 inches; and this product divided by fifteen, the number of inches of space occupied by each individual would place 4224 of them in a row to extend the length of a mile; and the same number of row to compete a square mile would consequently number 17,842,576.

Native Wines.

The Pennsylvania Inquirer states that vineyards are springing up everywhere in that State. In the county of Berks 60,000 gallons of wine are made per annum. At the Syracuse Fair, specimens of American champagne, manufactured in the immediate neighborhood, also a specimen of port wine, so called, manufactured from a native grape found in the vicinity of Columbus, Ga., were exhibited. No spirits or any kind of coloring matter was mixed with it.

The weather is now most delightful, and our city is filled with strangers, who from the far away inland places of our country, enjoy here the fresh gales of the Atlantic.

By late news from Europe, trade was good in England, crops looked well and provisions were cheap.

The beautiful village of Owego, in this State has been nearly destroyed by fire.

The President of Hayti a dark government, has assumed the purple. He cares nought about equality.