

## Miscellaneous.

### The Census Law for 1850.

The law has been published, and it is very comprehensive. The information which it proposes to embrace includes population, profession, color, occupation, place of birth, number of marriages, deaths, the persons who can read and write, deaf, dumb, blind, insane, slaves, fugitives and manumitted, the acres of land improved and unimproved, the cash value of each farm, the value of farming implements and machinery, the live stock, the produce during the year ending June 1, 1850, and the quantity of each particular article; the products of industry and the values; names of towns, counties and cities; the aggregate valuation of real and personal estate, the amount of taxes assessed, the number and character of the public schools, the extent of public libraries; the number, class, and circulation of the periodicals and newspapers; the number of criminals; the cost of labor, the average price of board to a laboring man per week, the average wages of a female domestic per week, the average payment of a carpenter per day, the average wages of a day laborer, the average wages of a farm hand, the number and value of the churches, and indeed every species of social statistics which can make those kind of tables valuable as sources of public information and reference.

### Prospects of the Wool Trade for 1850.

New England contains at this time 400 woolen factories, capable of consuming, when in full operation, thirty-five million pounds of wool. To supply this quantity, she has the surplus received through the New York canals, three fourths of the importations, about one-quarter of Pennsylvania receipts, and the surplus from her own wool growers:—New York canals, 12,731,402 pounds; New England surplus, say 5,000,000;  $\frac{3}{4}$  importations, 13,401,000;  $\frac{1}{4}$  Pennsylvania receipts, 1,280,000. Total for New England, 31,412,902 lbs.

New York produces about twenty millions and there was received from the West, by the way of Buffalo, eight millions and a quarter more, which would leave about eight millions, after deducting the amount received through the canals for home consumption. But to this is to be added about four millions of foreign wool, making a total consumption of, at least, twelve millions. Pennsylvania and New Jersey consume about ten millions more, and the consumption in all other States will make about six millions more. It would require, then, for the consumption of the manufactories, for the coming year, if the fabric should be in brisk demand, not less than sixty-five millions of pounds.

### Death of a Great Man.

Gay Lussac, the eminent chemist, died in Paris, on the 9th of May, in his 73d year.—Lussac, whose whole life has been occupied by a series of great and useful labors in chemistry and physics, gave very early promise of the reputation he was to acquire. The friend and pupil of Berthollet, he first distinguished himself by a work on the gases and vapors, which placed him at once by the side of Dalton. As a *savant* he extended the bounds of science by the most brilliant and startling discoveries. Making his researches sometimes alone, sometimes in connexion with other eminent men—Thenard and Humboldt, for instance—there is hardly a branch of physical science in which he has not labored with signal success. There is hardly a *savant* in his study, or a manufacturer in his factory, but is indebted to Gay Lussac for some invention, some method, some apparatus, some scientific suggestion, which facilitates his labors and renders his result more perfect.

### Colonel Fremont.

We see it stated that the Geographical Society of London have voted a gold medal to Colonel Fremont for having made, during the past year, the most valuable discoveries in geography of any known person. It is usual for this society to give a medal every year to the person having made the most valuable discovery in geographical science.

### For the Scientific American.

Whilst the reduction of the rates of postage is desirable, as a national advantage, the reduction of the labor of the department, as far as practicable, is worthy of consideration. The income of most offices is trifling: the business is so small that most postmasters transact it in connection with their ordinary occupations, and in receiving the pay for letters, other business is frequently interrupted. If the reduction of the rates should be confined to letters paid by stamp, it would lessen the labors of the office, for these paid letters could be deposited without requiring the attention of the postmaster. The price of the stamps could be so lessened, or such a reduction made to the purchaser of a reasonable minimum amount thereof, to secure their general use. The labor of large offices would thereby be diminished, and the access to them would be less delayed when they are the most frequented.

### A COUNTRY POST MASTER.

#### Charcoal for Cisterns.

The Horticulturist for April, publishes the following report of an experiment made by C. Robinson, Esq. of New Haven:

"My cistern holds some fifteen hogsheads, is filled from the roof of my house, standing near a street much frequented, although regularly watered during the summer season.—Whether the difficulty has arisen from the dust from the street, or from the fact that a grape vine overhangs a part of the roof, or because the cistern is closely covered, the water all the time has had a slight unpleasant smell. Last summer this difficulty became so great, that I was compelled to have the cistern emptied and thoroughly scoured. This winter the trouble has been greater than usual; so great as to drive me to the unwelcome conclusion, that my cistern must be again broken up, emptied and cleansed.

Such was the condition of things when I made the experiment above described; and I very naturally went a step farther. Taking about six quarts of clean charcoal, finely powdered, I wet it thoroughly in a pail, and then poured it through the water pipe in my cistern.

In ten days the whole difficulty was removed. Indeed the water became as pure, clear, sweet and soft as the purest which falls from the sky.

#### Stone Cavalry.

Four petrified horses and their riders are said to have been discovered at the bottom of Crow Wing river, one hundred and twenty-eight miles above St. Paul, Minnesota. The St. Paul Pioneer, which seems to be slightly sceptical on the subject, offers to pay fifty dollars for each sound petrified horse, mare, or gelding, and the same for each perfect petrified man or woman which may hereafter be found, and half price for ponies and children. A St. Louis Barnum, who is about to establish a museum in that city, writes to the editor of the Pioneer for particulars in relation to the stone cavalry, and offers to pay liberally for these hard customers if they can be delivered there in "good condition." A few antediluvians, embalmed by nature, would rather take the shine out of the swaddled corpses brought from the pyramids.

#### Death From a Pin.

A young Scotch lady, Miss Lavinia Downie, has undergone, with fatal issue, an operation to extract a pin which was lately discovered to be in her ear. When a very little girl, twenty years ago, Miss Downie put a pin in her mouth, and presently afterwards, as she believed, swallowed it. A festering in her ear lately revealed the existence of a foreign substance, and after great suffering the lost pin was extracted; it had become much bent in working its course through the tissues and bony structures. The young lady suffered long and intensely, and died on the 4th of April.

#### Indestructibility of Enjoyment.

Mankind are always happier for having been happy; so that if you make them happy now, you make them happy twenty years hence, by the memory of it. A childhood passed with a due mixture of rational indulgence, under fond and wise parents, diffuses over the whole of life a feeling of calm pleasure; and in extreme old age, is the very last remembrance which

time can erase from the mind of man. No enjoyment, however inconsiderable, is confined to the present moment. A man is the happier for life, from having made once an agreeable tour or lived for any length of time with pleasant people, or enjoyed any considerable interval of innocent pleasure, which contributes to render old men so inattentive to the scenes before them; and carries them back to a world that is past, and to scenes never to be renewed again.

#### Maryland Institute.

In noticing the exhibition of this Institute, which is to be held next October, we made a mistake, by stating that it was to continue open *four days* only. It will open on Monday the 14th, next October, and close on Thursday the 30th October—18 days. This Institute is in a flourishing condition, and every thing bids fair for a first rate Fair. The Common Council of the city of Baltimore has done the genteel thing to it, by granting a lot 360 feet by 60, for a new hall, and \$15,000 towards the building. Well done Baltimore.

#### Destitution in Glasgow, Scotland.

A distressing picture is given in a recent report of the amount of destitution in Glasgow, Scotland. One thousand and thirty-eight persons reside in that city, by any one of whom the largest amount earned in one week was six shillings, while many of them earned only sixpence, and the most of them from one to three shillings. The places in which they lived are stated to be of the worst description.

[There must surely be some mistake in the above extract, which we have seen in a number of our exchanges. Only one thousand persons with one dollar and half per week in a city whose population is 400,000, does not present any great amount of destitution we think, but the very reverse.

#### The Descendants of Robert Burns.

For some time, says the Daily News, there has been traveling in the interior of the remote Island of Borneo, and sojourning among its rude people of head-hunters, a young man of the name of Burns, and this young man is the grandson of Robert Burns and "bonny Jean." This adventurous youth had not only been hospitably and kindly treated by the rude Dyaks, but a prince of the Keyan nation, the most powerful of the Island, has given him one of his daughters to wife; so that the future biographers of Robert Burns will, in all likelihood be able to enumerate among his descendants those also of a Bornean prince. Mr. Burns has discovered mines of antimony and coal fields in Borneo more extensive than any in the world, out of America.

#### Western Giants.

The Cattaraugus County Whig, gives an interesting account of a number of skeletons recently exhumed in the town of Carrollton, in that County, near the confluence of the Limestone and Teunangwant Creeks. In digging a cellar, it became necessary to remove a large maple stump, and a number of human skeletons appeared immediately beneath, most of the bones remaining entire, others having been crushed by the weight of the stump and the use of levers, crowbars, axes, &c. The skulls were larger than those of common men, so large that those who dug them up, could place their heads within the cavities.

#### Parsnips for Pigs.

The Sussex (Eng.) Express says, "At our farm we have been in the habit of employing parsnips for this purpose, for some time. Upon reference to our books, we find that on the 11th of October, 1847, we put up two shoats of eleven weeks old, and fed them on skim milk and parsnips for three months, when they were killed, weighing 231 and 238 pounds. They were well fattened, firm in flesh, and the meat, of excellent flavor. The quantity of parsnips consumed by them, was 9 bushels each.

#### Telegraph Profits.

The monthly receipts of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company are estimated to be \$10,000, when in good working order, and the expenses about \$5,000.

Bain's Merchants' Line, in this city, has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the first six months. This is doing a good business.

#### Steamboat Boilers.

Some of the many steamboat accidents on the Western waters, this season, are attributed to the adoption of a new planned boiler. The St. Louis Union says:

We have come to the conclusion, after mature examination, that the boilers and flues of the St. Louis are constructed upon an injudicious and dangerous plan. We are fully convinced that, in a high pressure boiler, when steam is usually carried as high as one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty pounds to the square inch, no flues should be used over, say fifteen inches in diameter. A larger flue, it is true, may be used without accident; but it is, we believe, ever liable to it, under any unusual circumstances.

In proof of this fact, no less than three fine steamers have collapsed flues of a large kind within a recent period, which belonged to our city, viz: the steamers San Francisco, Columbus and St. Louis. Surely this must have been the cause of the accidents.

The Columbus has rejected the objectionable boilers, and the owners of the St. Louis have made arrangements to do the same. The defect is not in the builder or the material, but the plan.

#### Old Rice.

A gentleman who has resided for many years in India, fourteen hundred miles up the Ganges, says that the people there who are able to keep their rice, do not eat it until it is two years old, and the soft part has been eaten out by the worm. Then they winnow it clean, and eat it. Rice is the common food, and the poor people are obliged to eat new rice, as rich people do here. The gentleman says that during his residence in India, there have been famines in the districts around him, in which "millions of people perished." The famines result from the entire absence of rain for six months, and scorching winds, which destroy all vegetation. The British government are building a canal of great capacity, from mountains in which the Ganges rises, down into the country seven hundred miles, at an expense of fifty millions of dollars, for the purpose of irrigating the land. The cost of the canal is to be paid from the revenues of India.

#### Liquid Gold.

The Philadelphia Bulletin states that on Tuesday last, May 28th, there was melted down and cast into ingots for rolling, in the melter and refiner's department of the mint, about seven hundred thousand dollars' worth of gold; and on the same day, of gold preparatory for assay, there was melted nearly one hundred thousand dollars more. The whole weight was about three thousand six hundred pounds, and, if rolled into a sheet as thick as a half-eagle, would yield five hundred and forty-five square feet.

#### The Atlantic.

This noble steamer arrived at this port on last Sunday, making the passage from Liverpool in eleven days and four hours. This is a capital passage. We find that those papers who were immoderate in their censures about her first voyage, are now as extravagant in their praise. We hope that she will maintain for a great number of years, the character she has gained on her second voyage.

#### Subterranean Lake at Lancaster.

The Lancaster, (Pa.) Gazette gives an account of an underground body of water, which it says lies beneath the highest point of the city, 27 feet under the surface, and 20 feet above Centre Square. It was first discovered by a workman digging a well, and is thought to be 50 feet wide and 10 feet deep.—It flows in a southwestern direction. The Gazette proposes that the water be used to supply the city.

#### Old Tan Bark.

If wood ashes can be cheaply obtained, the best way to convert tan into manure is to mix it in layers—say, a bushel of ashes, unleached, to ten of tan—the heap to be made up in spring, worked over in midsummer, and used the next season.

The bee follows the instinct of sight in alighting upon a flower, as it sometimes alights on artificial flowers.