

Miscellaneous.

American Butter.

The Genesee Farmer, speaking of American butter in England, says that by foreign accounts, it is not so well packed or made as the Irish or the Dutch, and a great quantity of it has to be sold for grease, as being unfit to use. We believe the evil of this does not so much lie in the packing as in the way of collecting the cream. To make good butter the milk should never be turned when the cream is taken off. Let care be exercised in this respect, and then we will always have sweet butter from sweet cream. Or let the milk be churned without skimming—the way in which the best butter is produced. It would be well to pack the butter firkins inside of larger firkins, filled between with salt.

Marriage in High Life.

The New York Herald says that Mrs. Fanny Kemble Butler is about to be married to Theodore Sedgwick, Esq. The Lowell Advertiser thinks this will be news to Mr. Sedgwick's family. For our part we do not think Mr. S. has any idea of having two wives on hand; it is probable that the Herald was short of fashionable intelligence about that time. The Newport and Saratoga balls having ceased on account of the unfashionable season, a marriage in high life must of course be expected.

Singular Story a Lost Child Found.

Three years ago on the 8th day of October, a young boy four years of age named Jas. Douglas Burtson of John Burt, of Albany N.Y., was lost, and notwithstanding the most diligent search was made for him, the only clue obtained to his whereabouts was, that he was enticed off by a woman, while looking through the canvass of a circus tent. Lately, Mr. Burt's attention was attracted to a paragraph in a newspaper, stating that a little boy, 6 or 7 years of age, had been picked up in Syracuse while endeavoring to find shelter from the rain in a dry goods box. He was recognized by flesh marks and restored to his parents. During his whole absence he had been kept by the woman by whom he had been enticed away, and who is the wife of a man of property owned in Oswego. The latter professes to know nothing of the way in which the boy was obtained. The women had taught him that he was an orphan, and had come from England. During the State Fair at Syracuse he stole away from his abductor to see the sights at the fair, where he had managed to live by earning pennies for holding horses, &c., until he was picked up as above narrated.

Every person will enquire "what were the motives which led to the abduction and retention of this boy." We cannot satisfy ourselves. Some of our readers will doubt the truth of the story altogether, but we assure them, that it is true, for we know the little fellow well, and a bright boy he was, and is yet.

Useful Information to Shipmasters.

Accounts from Malta to the overland mail, report that the Terible, steam-frigate, sent to take sounding on the shoal, had returned, after finding the water much shallower than it is marked on the charts, and another shoal of much greater extent had been discovered, not marked at all, which leads to a strong presumption that some volcanic action is in progress. For the more minutely examining the new shoal, the Rosamond, steam sloop, of less draught of water, was despatched from Malta on the 22d. and had not, up to the 24th, yet returned. Sir William Barker, the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, had also despatched from Malta several of the launches of the ships in port, accompanied by the Oberon and Spitfire steam-sloops, to seek for (by means of dragging) a hidden rock, which though said to have been seen by several Maltese seamen, during the past forty years, is still eluded among the doubtful dangers, and upon which, it is supposed, the Earl of Aukland, steamer, struck in March last, situated from 87 to 95 miles due east of Malta.

This expedition is a very important one to shipmasters.

The Doubtful Rock near Malta.—Later News.

As has been reported that there was a rock in the Mediterranean, not laid down in the charts, and on which more than one vessel was wrecked, and had been the supposed cause of injury to the British screw steamer, the Earl of Aukland. The surveying expedition sent out to discover the truth or fallacy of the reports, under the command of Sir James Sterling, after a full survey for several successive days, and during the prevalence of calm weather, run up the parallels in which it has been reported to exist, and carefully swept and dragged for it without success. No soundings were to be met with under 300 fathoms, and we think we may now pretty confidently affirm that no such rock exists.

Cheap Houses for Mechanics and Artisans.

It is reported that a movement is on foot in this city, by several large capitalists, such as Mr. Grinnell, Mr. Minturn, and others, to buy a large tract of land some fifteen miles from the city of New York, to erect a new city upon. Two millions of dollars to be the capital. The company are to build 5,000 brick houses at \$500 each, including the lot of 50 by 200 feet. These houses are to let at \$52 each to mechanics, or \$1 a week, which will pay 10 per cent. All the houses to be uniform. Each occupant to have the right to purchase his house, by paying \$2 a week, and keeping up the interest of 7 per cent. In this way he gets a title to his homestead in about 6 years. A negotiation is going on with the Hudson River Railroad, that the occupants of these houses shall have the privilege to commute with the Railroad Company for their passage to New York and back again, at a price not to exceed 6 cents a day for going and coming; the distance each way will not be far from 15 miles, at 3 cents a head. In this way they can reach the city in half an hour, but could not in any way come down into the city, in less time than one hour. The price for railway transit would be \$20 per annum, at any rate, making the rent equal to \$70. We hope that the houses are intended to be self-contained. The great difficulty is in the distance of 15 miles from the city. Working people must be at their labor on the mark at 7 A. M. Above all other classes, they should be able to live near to the places of their labors.

The Pearlash Springs at the Great Salt Lake.

Many people think that these wonderful springs do not exist; but they are there, and no mistake. Thousands of California emigrants, who stopped to rest at the Salt Lake, watered their cattle at the springs, and would pay no attention to the warnings of the Mormons not to let their cattle drink of the water so strongly impregnated with saleratus. They said it was all a "Mormon humbug" about the alkali being strong enough to kill their cattle, and the consequences were, that more than two thousand dead carcasses of oxen now lie strewn along the way, and the very offensive smell caused thereby renders it almost impossible to travel near the road. The Mormons are making money by selling their produce to emigrants and buying things brought to them. By-and-by they intend starting an establishment to make pot and pearlashes, from the water of these springs, which they think will be far more valuable than all the gold mines about there.

Female Model Lodging House in London.

The Society for Improving the Condition of the Laboring classes have just opened a model lodging house in Hatton Garden, for unmarried females of good character. The premises are done up in a style of comfort which is surprising, considering the moderate charge,—2s. 4d. a week, payable in advance,—for which the accommodation is provided. There is accommodation for about sixty females, each having a separate bed in a separate compartment, and light, fire, washing and the use of culinary utensils; everything, in short, which could be had in a private house, except their food, which each inmate provides for herself. There is also a general sitting-room, and a library containing various instructive volumes, all characterized by their moral tendency.

Knavery.

The competition among the steamboats plying on the North River, has caused such a reduction of fare, that it is not unusual to see placards posted about New York City announcing that passengers will be carried to Albany for the trifling sum of one shilling; but care is taken not to state that fifty cents is required for a berth, and an additional fifty cents for a meal. This is all very well, as far as it goes, but it seems there is a way of imposing upon travellers which amounts to a downright swindle. If tickets for passage are bought on shore, or before the boat starts, they are disposed of at the published price; but if that necessary operation is postponed until the steamer is fairly on its way, a far higher demand is made and remonstrances are met with the cool remark that the low price was an old advertisement that should have been discontinued. Recently, on board the steamer Alida, a lady was, in this way, charged two dollars fare, when it should have been only twenty-five cents. This is downright knavery.

[The above is from the United States Gazette, and we believe every word of it. It is our opinion that \$1.50 would never be too much for a passage and berth to Albany, but the public would not support a boat at that rate of fare, unless it is regular, if another and an inferior one charged fifty cents less. The charge of \$2, on the Alida, a day boat, was a most extravagant price. There is but little honor in the way of managing any of the North River boats, so far as to have a regular and reasonable fare—they are not monopolies but they are worse, for they are regular public-take-in-opolies.]

Domestication of the American Bison in Europe.

A Frenchman, M. Lamore Piquot, who has travelled much in America, has addressed a memoir to the French Academy of Sciences, in which he strongly urges the naturalization and domestication of the American Bison in France, on the ground that it would be excellent for use in agricultural pursuits for draught, and would furnish a new meat of an agreeable flavor. He states that the animal has been domesticated on the Red River, and the flesh found excellent after it has been five years in that state. He cites an instance in 1842, in which the animal at four years of age performed a journey of seventy-five miles in a day; and, on the morrow, dragged back, by eleven at night, a load of eight hundred pounds. The memoir was referred to these eminent naturalists of the Academy.

Singular Cause of Death.

A melancholy incident occurred in the course of the late San Pedro Expedition to recover treasure from a sunken ship on the South American coast. One of the divers, by a singular act of imprudence, unfortunately lost his life. The diving-bell was on the bottom, and the signal to haul had been given, when one of the party named Jackson, impatient to get to the surface, determined to try the experiment of rising in the water. He accordingly left the interior of the bell, through the aperture, and actually did rise through the sixty feet of water, but on appearing above, he was so prostrated by the effort of the deprivation of breath during the ascent, that he died soon after taken on board. Ten fathoms, we believe, is twice the depth the most expert divers ever accomplished.

"Slow Rises Worth by Poverty Depressed."

"It is commonly reported," states the Sheffield Times, "that in the picturesque custom, which still survives, of carrying milk to Sheffield market, England, in small barrels slung across a donkey's back, Francis Chantry, the eminent sculptor, bore his part; and that, in the days of his childhood, he often sat betwixt the shaking barrels on the road between his native village, Norton, and our town. The lad thus humbly employed found little sympathy or assistance when the light of higher purposes was dawning within him."

Men should labor zealously for the community, strenuously for their friends, and sufficiently for themselves.

Leather Preservative.

We have received from Messrs. A. Bacon & Co., of Charlton, Worcester Co., Mass., a box of Water-proof Blacking—a very valuable composition for preserving leather. We can assure our friends that this article is not inferior to any now in use, (and there are many.) The manufacturers are practical tanners, and understand well what is necessary to render leather impervious to water without impairing its strength, a very important desideratum. This article is not new, but has stood the test of several years trial. Each box contains one half pint of Preservative, and is sold at twenty cents per box.

Francis W. Rice, the Junior Editor of the Boston Olive Branch, announces his withdrawal from that paper, with which he has been connected for the past five years. It is Mr. Rice's intention to proceed to San Francisco, where he will be engaged in conducting an administration journal. We had a slight acquaintance with him, and feel assured that wherever he may go, a host of warm friends will gather around him. We wish him abundant success in his new enterprise.

American Produce in London.

A vessel lately arrived at London from this country with a cargo of pigs' feet. It is easy to see where these feet came from, Cincinnati. A great quantity of American butter has also been received, and American Silver Lake ice, from Boston, hoes out all the Norway produce of this nature. The United States could feed all Europe; she has coal enough to heat all Europe, and then she can also cool them off by her ice. What can she not do, after giving Uncle John the dearest cup of tea that he ever tasted.

Gold Seeker.

New York, Oct. 4, 1849.

Messrs. Editors:—Will you permit me through the medium of your valuable paper to lay before the public, (especially Californians and other adventurers) an improved method for the more speedy and successful operations in their researches after the precious metal, by means of galvanic influence; it is more especially useful in rivers, and other places in their nature inaccessible, except attended with much time, labor and expense. The plan is simply this, to allow two wires from each pole of a voltaic battery to drag at the bottom of the river; when they come in contact with any metallic substance, the voltaic circuit is complete, and the electricity acts immediately on the Galvanometer, which shows by its deflection that some metal must be at the bottom; by this means no great labor is requisite, except in places where an ample return must be expected to repay the workmen. This method would, I have no doubt, be used with much success in various parts of the Sacramento River, where gold is supposed to exist in large quantities, and would save the unnecessary expense of cutting canals, draws, &c., for the drainage of the river, where perhaps no gold ever existed.

The machine is both cheap and portable, and a knowledge of its use can be easily acquired with a little study, by any man of ordinary intellect. A machine something after the above plan has been used with much success in Russia for exploring the numerous streams of the Ural Mountains. L. H. MICK, C. E..

No. 2. Jay street, corner of Hudson.

[We do not see how this machine could operate correctly, as water itself is a good conductor, and will complete the galvanic circuit without any metallic connection between the negative and positive poles.—Ed.]

A True and Wonderful Snake Story.

We learn from the Berks & Schuylkill Journal, Pa., that a snake with two heads (we are sorry that we cannot put the ten tails to it,) was killed recently near the Poplar Neck Bridge, by the Toll-keeper, Mr. John Jackson. It measured nearly one foot in length, with two perfect heads growing out of a single body, forming altogether a most rare curiosity. The snake is preserved in a flask of spirits, and may be examined by all who are curious in such matters by calling on Mr. Jackson.