

Miscellaneous.

A Scene Altogether American.

The National Intelligencer, commenting upon the sad event of President Taylor's death, alludes to an incident of the day, which probably made less impression than some others on American spectators, but was precisely that which is most calculated to attract the notice of foreigners.

The death of the President being announced, a citizen, plainly attired, enters among the assembled Representatives of the nation, walks up to the Clerk's desk, takes an oath on the Bible to support the Constitution of the United States, and, by this brief ceremony, he becomes, in an instant of time, invested with the command of the whole military force of a mighty empire, with the execution of its laws and the administration of its power. No one objects or dreams of objection; the act is acquiesced in as a thing of course, and with the submission that would be rendered to a law of nature. The sceptre of the people passes into his hands as quietly and as quickly as a power of attorney could be acknowledged before a justice of the peace. And yet, though the individual attracted attention, the thing itself was hardly thought of, in connection with the consequences. In some countries such a transfer of power would have cost streams of blood, and shaken the government to its very foundations. And why is it not so here? Because ours is a government of equal rights, and a government of laws, and because our people are a law-abiding and a law-keeping people; because they know and feel that their own laws are the restraints which they themselves have placed on their own passions, and that it is only by obeying these laws that their equal rights can be maintained. May such ever be their spirit! If so, we may well say of the Republic, not "esto perpetua," but "est perpetua."

Death of an Inventor.

Adam Ramage, the well known inventor of the "Ramage Printing Press," died at his residence in Lombard street, Philadelphia, on Tuesday the 9th inst. His last illness was short, although from his advanced age—nearly 80 years—he had suffered from general debility, rheumatism, and other complaints, for a number of years. As the inventor of the "Ramage Press," Mr. Ramage is known all over the United States. The business of press making he has continued at his factory, in Library street, up to the time of his death, and has supplied most of the presses of that character that have been used in the United States for a number of years. He was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and came out to America in the same vessel with Laurie Todd (Grant Thorburn), about half a century ago. He was a cabinet maker by trade and possessed great mechanical genius, a faculty peculiarly prominent in his countrymen—as the Napier Press, and Stereotyping in the art of printing are strong evidences. The Ramage press was a screw motion to operate the platten. It is now but little used. Adam Ramage was a man of good sense, amiable and benevolent, and a great lover of Burn's poetry.

Monster Dividend.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company, of which Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall are the representatives, have declared a dividend of fifty per cent., their first dividend. This Company started, we believe, with a capital not exceeding six hundred thousand dollars. It has since purchased the steamship Unicorn, Tennessee, Cherokee, and Philadelphia, for which there must have been paid all of seven hundred thousand dollars. This fact, considered in connexion with the dividend above mentioned, will afford some idea of the profits of the business.

Tall Work.

Mr. John Walter, of Smithsburg, Washington county, Md., on a wager of \$10, cut on Saturday, 6 acres and 18 perches of wheat, making 203 dozens sheaves. The Hagerstown Herald, says this is considered the best day's work ever performed in that county.

An English Legal Decision.

A Miss Bateman, not long since, made her will, in Newington, England, leaving a very large property to her friends and poor distant relatives. In writing out the will it filled three pages of a sheet of paper, and so she naturally turned over to the fourth page and made her signature. This, it was contended, was not signed at the end of the will, and therefore, the will was without a signature! The Court sustained the view of the case, and the large property of Miss B. went to her near relatives. A blind girl, a friend of Miss B., lost five thousand dollars by this mean business; a young minister lost eight thousand dollars. And even her faithful servants, to whom she gave one thousand dollars each, had to go off empty-handed. In fact, a large property of \$150,000 went to enrich two millionaires, instead of being divided among the poor, as the lady had intended.

This decision is proof fact of the old saying,

The judge, like a great *jackdaw*,
Lays down that which is *Law*.
And although you do not get justice,
You are sure to get plenty of law.

Mr. Paine Literally Blown Up.

Mr. Paine, has had another attempt made upon his life. Somebody has been trying to blow him up. The Boston Transcript says:—Mr. Paine being in our office a few days since, we noticed that his face was badly scarred with blotches, as if it had been excoriated in various places. A friend inquired the cause of the appearance, when Mr. Paine stated that a small package of cigars was sent to him in Worcester, a few days since, with an accompanying note stating that they were sent to him as a specimen for trial. Mr. Paine lighted one of them, but had not smoked it longer than a minute when it exploded, scattering sulphur and fulminating powder in his face. The wretch, who could be guilty of such an outrage, would poison grandmother for the old silver on her spectacles.

Experiments with Galvanized Wire and Hemp Ropes.

Experiments have been tried in Woolwich Dockyard, England, to ascertain the comparative strength of wire and hemp ropes. A wire rope, 3 inches round, and a hemp rope of 3 strands, hawser laid, common make, 7 inches round, were spliced together, and placed in the testing machine, and on the hydraulic power being applied the hemp rope broke in the middle on the strain reaching 11½ tons, the wire rope remaining apparently as strong as when the experiment commenced. A wire rope 3½ inches round, was then spliced with an 8 inch hemp shroud rope, and on the power being applied the hemp rope broke in the middle with a strain of 10½ tons, the wire rope continuing apparently uninjured.

Society of Public Health.

A society has been formed in our country for the purpose of arousing the attention of the public to the necessity of a "health reform," the members of it being impressed with the belief that disease and premature death are in most cases the result of ignorance of the laws of health. The ultimate objects of this Society are the abolition of all unhealthy nuisances, and to secure to our entire population, cleanliness, pure air, proper food, houses, clothing, and to elevate the standard of medical practice, to act for the preservation of health, rather than the curing of diseases. These are noble objects truly. Surely there is no man who would not subscribe to them. This society has sent round circulars which can be supplied by the secretary, F. L. Nichols, M. D., No. 27 22nd st., New York. Those who write to him must mind and (p. p.) their letters.

Ohio State Board of Agriculture.

The first Annual Fair of Ohio State Board of Agriculture will be held in the city of Cincinnati, on the 11th to the 14th of next September. The Executive Committee consists of Darius Lapham, Cincinnati, I. G. Gest, of Xenia, J. M. Bateman, of Columbus. We hope the citizens of Ohio will make this Fair one of the superlative degree—this is expected of Ohio.

Manufactures in Providence, R. I.

As the city of Providence has, within a few years, taken very decidedly the start of its ancient compeer, Salem, it is worth while for us (says the Salem Gazette) to see what meat it feeds on, that it has grown so great. According to the carefully prepared statistics of a gentleman in Providence, there are in that city four bleaching and calendering establishments, bleaching 18 tons of cotton cloth per day, including printing cloths, and employing 500 hands. There are printed each week 13,000 pieces of cloth, or 390,000 yards, employing 500 hands. There are four cotton mills, of 34,000 spindles, which make 58,000 yards of cloth per week, employing 730 hands. Two woollen mills manufacture 375,000 yards of satinet and jeans, consuming 126,000 pounds of wool annually, employing 120 hands. There are two screw factories that manufacture annually 700 tons of iron, employing 475 hands. Fourteen furnaces, consuming 5,000 tons of pig iron for machinery, turn out 14,000 parlor, cooking and counting-room stoves, and 550 plows—employing 272 hands. There are three steam engine establishments, for building steam-engines, employing 240 hands. One rolling-mill employs 75 hands, makes 30 tons railroad iron and 3 tons of wire per day from pigs and blooms. One edge tool, nut and washer factory, manufactures annually 31,200 dozen plane-irons, 100 tons hinges, 300 tons bolts, 200 tons nuts, 100 tons pick-axes and other forges—95 hands. One factory for manufacturing shoe-ties, corset-lacings and braid—employs 36 hands, and consumes 1,200 lbs. of cotton per week. Four planing-machines plane 10,000,000 feet of lumber annually, make 75,000 boxes for goods, cradles and sofas, and 100,000 sash lights—employ 400 hands. Eight engraving shops, for engraving copper-rolls for printing cloths—80 hands. Three butt-hinge factories employ 30 hands, and manufacture annually 100,000 dozen hinges. There are in this city five brass foundries, and seventeen tin and sheet-iron shops; 16,000 weavers' reeds are manufactured from steel wire; 1,200 men are employed in making cotton and woollen machinery; 500 house-carpenters, and 350 stone and brick masons, here find employment. There are 65 steam-engines in operation. There is paid annually for labor in the manufacture of jewelry over \$100,000.

Well done little Rhodey.

A Gold Placer on the Arkansas River.

The Van Buren Intelligencer declares that gold has been recently discovered in various places for a distance of about seventy miles along the Arkansas river, beginning at a point about 200 miles above Fort Gibson. It is also found on the Little Arkansas and on Cottonwood creek. It is found in the beds of these streams, and is obtained by washing the sand, as in the Sacramento. A party of men from Washington county, Ark., have been already at work at these placers, but having no machinery, they merely took enough of the gold to test its value. Another party is to start from Cane Hill on the 13th of August, and a party of Cherokees on the 19th ult.

The Siamese Twins Dead.

The Paris Journal des Debats announces the death, in England, of the famous Siamese Twins. The Debats states that according to the London Medical Times, the two brothers died of marasmus. A post mortem examination proved what has been constantly supposed by the faculty, viz.: that the two cavities of the abdomen communicated by means of the hollow ligament which united them, and that the livers of the twins were connected by a membrane bridle about half an inch thick.

Fire-Proof Buildings.

The Sun of last Tuesday had a very able article on Fire-proof Buildings—we hope our City Magistrates will give it some attention. This is a subject which interests every man, woman and child in this and every other city in the Union. Why is it that we have so many fires? Can there be no efficient remedy devised?—are questions worthy of deep consideration, for we have a fire in this city every night.

A seam of black lead has been discovered near St. Johns New Brunswick.

The Comet.

Mr. Bond, of the Cambridge University, writes to the Boston Traveller on the 11th, that the comet is now plainly visible to the naked eye, near the bright star Arcturus in the constellation Bootes. It is better seen with a small telescope, or with an opera glass. A tail of five degrees long, too faint to be discerned with the naked eye, is visible in large telescopes. Its length is four millions of miles, and daily increasing. The nucleus, of a few hundred miles in diameter, is very dense, apparently a solid body.

About the 20th of this month the comet will pass very near to the place occupied by the earth on the 25th of June its velocity at that point will be one hundred thousand miles an hour.

Its distance from the earth is now forty millions of miles, and from the sun one hundred millions. It passes its Perihelion on the 22d of July.

American Steamships.

The Atlantic made her last voyage from New York to Liverpool in ten days and sixteen hours. This was an excellent passage. The Collins Line bids fair to rival the Cunard. We have seen a great number of comparisons between the Collins and Cunard Steamships, but we have no correct means of comparing the two to give a just opinion. In the course of ten years more, with the just, wholesome and generous rivalry between America and England, the average length of passages between this city and Liverpool will be about 10 days.

Terrible Fire in Philadelphia.

On the evening of Tuesday, the 9th, three hundred and fifty buildings were destroyed, and, alas! we have to record the loss of thirty lives. The deaths were caused by explosions. The explosions were caused by gunpowder, no doubt. Some have said that there was no gunpowder there, only saltpetre, but this we do not believe. It is our opinion that gunpowder alone was the cause of the explosion.

Large Hammer.

The bark Robert, which arrived in this city on Wednesday last week, from Liverpool, brought a steam hammer weighing about fourteen thousand pounds. It was made by a Mr. Nasmith, of Liverpool, upon the order of Mr. Ames, an extensive iron manufacturer of Connecticut.

An Interesting Relic.

The late Capt. Josiah Sturgis has bequeathed to Company C, Boston Washington Light Guards, a sash worn by Gen. Washington when encamped with the American army at Cambridge.

The Red Weevil is doing much damage to the wheat in Bucks and Montgomery counties. It is a long yellow worm, about the sixteenth of an inch in length. In every instance it is found near to the grain. The Mediterranean wheat appears to have entirely escaped; probably because of its arriving at a state of maturity earlier than the other variety.

Great Steamboat Speed.

The Steamer Notherner, a new vessel on Lake Ontario, made the run from Oswego to Ogdensburg, recently, 163 miles, in 7 hours 55 minutes exclusive of stops—nearly 19 miles per hour. That's pretty fair.

A company has been organized in Baltimore, and the stock has nearly all been taken, to work one of the quicksilver mines of California.

There is considerable cholera in some of our western cities; Cincinnati, Nashville, and St. Louis have been much afflicted. New York was never more healthy than at present.

Whipple's powder mills, N. H., exploded on the 10th inst. One man was killed, and the report of it, was heard at a distance of 30 miles.

There are 287 miles of railroad in Vermont. There are 1,049 miles of railroad in Massachusetts. There are 1,306 miles of railroad in New York.