

Miscellaneous.

A Whale in Vermont.

The workmen on the Burlington and Rutland Railroad, while digging a few days since near Beamen's Hollow, between Vergennes and Middlebury, came across the skeleton of some unknown animal, deeply imbedded in clay. Little attention was paid to the matter at the time, and unfortunately most of the bones were carted off. Enough of them, however, have since been collected by the Rev. Mr. Thompson, of this town, (the learned author of the History of Vermont,) to enable him to determine all the important characteristics of the monster to which they belonged, and to give a drawing representing its proportions. He states that the bones discovered are those of a cerataceous animal, (or sea animal of the whale family,) resembling the dolphin. Mr. Thompson further states, that no fish of this particular kind is known to exist, and that the one here must have lived and died in the salt ocean, long previous to the creation of man.—In size, it was about 11 feet in length, and 6 feet in circumference.—[Burling. Sent.], and— [The editor of the Green Mountain Freeman, is coming into the faith. He does not object to whales being once inhabitants of Vermont.

Another Lost Child Recovered.

The reader will remember, says the Albany Evening Journal, that we have spoken of a little girl in possession of the family from whom Mr. Burt of this city recovered his boy. That child is claimed by Henry Baumer, of Hoboken. In June, 1846, the child was in company with her mother, on some public occasion, when they became separated. Although the child was missed in a moment, nothing could be heard of her. Her father had searched the Union through, without success, until, seeing our account of the recovery of Mr. Burt's child, he went to Oswego, and recognised in this reputed "twin-sister" of the boy his own child. When he first saw her, he spoke to her in German, and she replied in German, although she had been three years from home. Mr. B. is now in this city waiting the return of the Governor, to obtain a requisition for the arrest of the women at Oswego.

Prices of Telegraphing in England.

The London Times of Sept. 25 contains a statement of the places in England and Scotland at which the Electric Telegraph Company have stations—they are some 50 or 60 in number; also, the rates of telegraphing, which are, for every 20 words, 2 cents per mile for the first 50; 1 cent for the next 50, and for any distance beyond 100 miles, half a cent per mile. These enormous charges are the result of a close monopoly, which America is happily free from by the competition of various inventors.

[The above is going the rounds, and it is something we cannot understand, as there are as many different telegraph companies in England as there are here.

Tricks of a Flying Machine Man.

A certain gentleman named R. O. Davidson, celebrated a few years ago for some attempts in New Orleans at machine flying, has been trying the generosity of Lady Franklin to advance him some tin to prosecute some scheme of constructing a machine to go in search of Sir John, by flying instead of sailing. We are heartily ashamed of the fact that the high flyer is an American citizen, however let us call the attention of Mr. Robjohn to this object. The discovery of Sir John Franklin by a balloon would certainly be something to immortalize the daring aeronaut.

The Puritans a Pro se Race.

According to Bancroft, the first Puritan settlers of New England are the parents of one-third of the population of the United States. In the first fifteen years—the time when most of the immigration from England took place—there came over 21,000 persons. Their descendants in 1840 were estimated at 4,000,000. Each family has multiplied on the average to a thousand souls. So that a little one has become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation.

New Discovery of Wonderful Ruins in Nicaragua.

At a meeting of the Ethnological Society, held in this city last week, it was stated that Mr. E. G. Squier, our Charge of Affairs to the Nicaragua Government, had commenced exploring, and forwarded several curious relics to Washington. He gives an account of the recent discovery of an ancient city, buried beneath the forest, about a hundred and fifty miles from Leon, which far surpasses the architectural wonders of Palenque. The Indians everywhere receive Mr. S. with the utmost kindness, and their chiefs regard him as a heaven-sent minister to protect them from their Spanish oppressors. They are glad to render him every possible assistance in his investigations, on the condition that he will bring no Spaniard into their villages, nor communicate to the priests the secrets they disclose.

A Peruvian Inca.

At the last meeting of the Ethnological Society of this City, Mr. Bartlett read a letter addressed to the President of the United States from the Inca of Peru, accompanied by a letter from Samuel G. Arnold, of Providence. Mr. Arnold, who has recently returned from South America, met with the venerable Inca, who is 90 years of age. He gives a very graphic account of his appearance, and relates the affecting story of the wrongs of his royal race. He found the princely old priest sitting in the shadow of the Temple of the Sun, engaged in reading Tasso.

Queen Victoria's Piano.

The splendid piano of her majesty, Queen Victoria, is completely veneered with ivory, in sheets of from fourteen to seventeen feet in length, and thirty inches and upwards in width, from a single elephant's tooth! by a spiral process peculiar to M. Pape. It is also encrusted and ornamented with the rarest woods, forming original designs, and rendering it worthy of its place in the new palace of her majesty.

Hoe's Printing Presses.

Mr. Kendall, in his last letter to the New Orleans Picayune, gives the following account of the success of Mr. Hoe in establishing the reputation of his power-presses in Paris. Success to American enterprise and genius:

"Colonel Hoe, the celebrated manufacturer of power printing presses in New York, I saw in Paris a few days since, but I learn that he shortly returns to the United States. He has succeeded in fully establishing his fame on this side; for while one of his machines is already successfully in use on the Patrie, others have been ordered on this side. He goes back with some new ideas in his head of still further improvements in his presses—already the fastest in the world—which will even increase the tremendous rate of speed he has so far attained. Success to him, for he fully deserves it."

Light from the Oyster.

Open an oyster, retain the liquor in the lower or deep shell, and, if viewed through a microscope, it will be found to contain multitudes of small oysters, covered with shells, and swimming nimbly about—one hundred and twenty of which, in a row, would extend but one inch. Besides these young oysters, the liquor contains a variety of animalculæ, and myriads of three distinct species of worms, which shine in the dark like glow-worms.—Sometimes their light resembles a bluish star about the centre of the shell, which will be beautifully luminous in a dark room.

Manchaneel Poison and Its Antidote.

There is a tree called the Manchaneel, in the West Indies; its appearance is very attractive, and the wood of it peculiarly beautiful; it bears a kind of apple resembling the golden pippin. This fruit looks very tempting and smells very fragrant, but to eat of it is an instant death, and its sap or juice is so poisonous that if a few drops of it fall on the skin it raises blisters and occasions great pain.—The Indians dip their arrows in this juice to poison their enemies when they wound them. Providence has so appointed it, that one of these trees is never found, but near it grows a white wood, or a fig tree, the juice or either of which if applied in time, is a remedy for the diseases produced by the Manchaneel.

Great Railroad Tunnel.

The Tunnel at New Hamburg, N. Y., is 830 feet long, and through solid rock. At the South end is a cut 500 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 50 feet deep, all through the rock before reaching the tunnel; through two shafts sunk to it, one 70 feet in depth, the other 56, a glimpse of daylight may be obtained. Emerging at the north end one other deep cut is found, nearly as formidable as that at the south, being 200 feet long and 70 deep making the entire deep cutting through the rock, all inclusive, no less than 1530 feet.

To carry on this work Messrs. Ward, Wells & Co., the contractors, now employ 400 men, keep in steady operation nine blacksmiths' shops with two fires each, to repair and temper tools, have 12,000 pounds of cast steel in drills and tools in constant use, and have consumed 6000 kegs of powder, of 25 pounds each, in fourteen months. The tunnel is 19 feet high and 24 feet wide, where finished, and will be so all the way through. The work goes on night and day, with perfect system and order, Messrs. Ward, Wells & Co., have been at this job fourteen months.

A Queer Craft.

Those who go from the East to the West, and have occasion to travel on the Western waters, are often amused by the queer looking craft they meet with no queerer than the one described in the following Paragraph from the St. Louis Republican:

Arrival Extraordinary.

The Dolly-Hyandusendawsen arrived here early yesterday morning from the head waters of the Kentucky. She is not a steamboat, nor yet a flat boat, but a sort of a two mule power tug. The mules being set in motion, turn a water wheel attached to the stern of the boat. She is built somewhat in the fashion of the "Two Pollys," a well known craft that plied on the waters of the upper Ohio many years ago when the river was low. This boat is composed of two pirogues placed side by side, over which is built a deck, and above that the cabin. She belongs to some five or six enterprising families, who are emigrating to the West with their children and plunder.

American and British Navigation Laws.

In 1817, Congress passed an act permitting the vessel of any nation to enter cargoes of the products of their own and other countries into any port of the United States, upon a footing as favorable as vessels of the United States, whenever the government of any nation, would extend the same facilities to American vessels. The repeal of the navigation laws of Great Britain enables American vessels to enter cargoes from South America, the East Indies, or any foreign country, in any port of Great Britain, upon a footing as favorable as British vessels are entered. On the 1st of January next this law goes into effect, when the vessels of both nations will enter into a competition for the foreign commerce of the world.

Oregon.

Oregon is the greatest lumber country in the world. Around one mill, within a circle of three miles, stands timber enough to last a hundred years, the mill all the time cutting 6000 feet a day. The trees are from 6 to 10 feet in diameter, and some of them 300 feet high. They are felled into a lake, floated to the mill three miles, sawed by water power, and turned out at the side of the mill, whence a vessel takes them to California. Wheat in Oregon averages 65 lbs. a bushel, and Oregon flour brings \$6 more a barrel at the gold mines than any other. The number of votes cast in Oregon, in June, was 943.

A Singular Discovery.

While some workmen were engaged in digging away a hill belonging to Mr. Williams, at Green Point, L. I., last week, they discovered a cell made of Cedar, six feet wide and eight feet high, containing some salt hay, and bottles filled with a liquid resembling brandy in appearance, but of an oily taste. No entrance to the cell could be discovered, and the "oldest inhabitant" was not able to account for how it came there. Some skulls were also found near the same place, to which oysters had attached themselves, and grown firmly.

The First Cotton Factory.

A correspondent of the Providence Journal says:

"The American Quarterly Register for June contains some very interesting manufacturing statistics. The editor has fallen into an error, however, which we take the liberty to correct. Speaking of the factory erected in Bayfield, Massachusetts, in 1793, he says it was 'the first regular factory establishment in the United States.' There are at least two that took precedence of the Bayfield establishment, viz., one in Beverly, Massachusetts, erected in 1788 and chartered in 1789, and one in Pawtucket, established in 1790. The spinning and weaving in the Beverly factory was done by hand-power. In the Pawtucket factory the machinery was moved by water-power. In 1789 General Washington visited the factory in Beverly, and expressed a warm interest in its success. During that year ten thousand yards of cotton goods, such as corduroys, velveteens, &c., were manufactured there. It was a day of small things, indeed, but the representative of a branch of industry now vitally connected with our national prosperity."

Earthquake in Massachusetts.

The Bunker Hill Aurora says:—

"A very severe shock of an earthquake was felt in several of the towns in the middle of this county, on Monday afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock. Two very loud and heavy explosions were heard, and the earth and buildings continued to tremble during the moments which elapsed.

At Acton, Concord, and other towns, the people ran out of the houses and stores, supposing some terrible explosions of the powder-mill in Sudbury had occurred. At Concord, Acton, Carlisle, Bedford, Lexington, Lincoln, Stow, and probably many other towns, the shocks were distinctly realized, and it was generally supposed to have been the blowing up of some powder-mill. By some persons the shaking was said to resemble that produced by the rolling of something heavy in a room overhead. A similar shaking of the earth was felt in the same locality about a year ago, early in the morning.

Planting Chestnuts.

At a late farmers' meeting in New York, Mr. Rice, speaking of planting Chestnut timber remarked, that he plowed up a track of unproductive hill-side, several years ago, and planted it with chestnuts, in rows four feet apart every way. The first sprouts coming up rather crooked and scrubby, he went over the field, and cut them down close to the ground, which caused new sprouts to shoot up straight and vigorous. The trees are very thrifty, completely shading the ground, and grow more and more rapidly as the soil becomes strengthened by the annual deposit of leaves. So well satisfied is he with the experiment, that he is now placing other worthless lands in a similar course of improvement.

Important Decision in New Jersey.

The U. S. Circuit Court at Trenton has just declared a suit in which a plaintiff claimed title to land under the proprietors of East New Jersey, which was derived from the grant of King Charles II, to his brother the Duke of York, made March 12, 1654. This was a very comprehensive grant, beginning at St. Croix and extending to the east side of Delaware Bay, which grant invested the Duke of York with the property and the power of government. The court decided that "after the revolution, and the establishment of a new government, all royal rights and privileges became null and void."

Engineering Professorship.

The professorship of engineering in the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University, has been filled by the appointment of Lieut. Henry L. Eustis, late assistant professor of civil engineering in the United States Military Academy at West Point. The department is expected to be organized without delay for the reception of students.

Sixteen commissioners have fallen victims to their zeal in preparing a report upon bed-bugs, in Edinburg, Scotland. They were massacred in their beds by the enraged populace of which they were taking the census.