

TIMELY TOPICS.

Tables prepared at Washington give the aggregate production of the three great agricultural staples of the Southern States for 1878 as follows: Cotton, 5,300,000 bales; sugar, 212,000 highlands; tobacco, 572,000,000 pounds. In 1877 the production was Cotton, 4,811,483 bales; sugar, 197,753 highlands; tobacco, 560,000,000 pounds.

Charles Reade is outdone in the story which Nathan C. Saylor, of Golden, Col., tells of his own experience as a crazy man. His persecutors were his wife and daughter, who would be benefited by his dying intestate. He says on oath that they induced a jury of six of his enemies to pronounce him insane, and hired a brute to keep him on his farm, reviled him when, in an effort to escape, he was lassoed and had a leg and a hip broken by his jailer, and finally stole his property. The man is touched for as entirely sane.

The French originator of the gigantic enterprise of bridging the English Channel says that he means to commence operations at once. He has been laying his plans before the Chambers of Commerce in France and Belgium for the purpose of securing funds, which will soon make an appeal to the British government. He has already secured the indorsement of eighty-four commercial organizations in France and Belgium, and he estimates that the cost of the bridge will be \$200,000,000, which will be sufficient for the experimental stage and demonstrate the feasibility of his enterprise.

Imitation merschaum pipes are now manufactured from potatoes in France. A peeled potato is placed in sulphuric acid and water, in the proportion of eight parts of the former to one of the latter. It remains in this liquid three or four days, to be blackened, is dried with blotting paper, and submitted to a certain pressure, when it becomes a material that can be readily carved. The counterfeit is said to be excellent. An imitation of a very sufficiently hard for billiard balls can be made by still greater pressure. A resemblance of coral is obtained by treating carrots in the same manner.

The race of white people which Major Pinto, the Portuguese explorer, has discovered in South Africa is named Cassiquar, and is the most beautiful of nations. Small tufts of very short black wool take the place of hair on the head, while smallness of eyes and prominence of cheek bones constitute a resemblance to the Caffers. The Cassiquars are very robust, and both men and women are entirely nomadic, wandering in groups of from four to six families each, and living on roots and on the results of the chase. Unlike their black neighbors, they do not intermarry with their black neighbors. They are the only people in Africa that do not cook their food in pots.

The latest "fastest" ocean steamer is the Arizona, which is the largest steamer now in service and which reached Queenstown in seven days, eight hours and eight minutes from New York. Being her previous trip, which was also her first one, by one hour and a quarter. The speed of ocean voyages does not necessarily increase the danger of them, for the trip is made in a more comfortable and safer manner. The machinery used which enable the newest steamers to outlast the old ones. For people who spend ocean voyages in the regions of sea-sickness the quicker the trip is made the better. The Atlantic is an object for travelers of all classes.

In relation to cotton production and consumption the United States Economist gives tables showing that for eleven years, ending with the crop of 1869, the total production of the country was 37,410,697 bales. The annual average yield 3,400,972 bales. For the fourteen years ending 1876, 94 per cent. for the three years ending 1879, 77 per cent. for the two years ending 1874, 20 per cent. for the three years ending 1871, 16 per cent. for the three years ending 1877, 17 per cent. for the two years ending 1875, 15 per cent. During the first eleven years following the war, the production reached 36,210,881 bales, an average of 3,300,000 per annum, against 37,410,697 for the eleven years ending 1861, an average annual production of 3,400,972. The average crop for the 14 years ending 1876, the average production for the eleven years ending 1861 by 215,000 bales. The crop now coming to market, if current estimates of it be correct, exceeds the largest crop prior to the war by 377,000 bales.

Fruits for Food.

Henry Ward Beecher says there is no sense in the old farmer's motto, "Fruit is gold in the morning, silver at noon, and lead at night." His reasons for this opinion he thus states: "Because, with a limited experience, people perceive that some folks can succeed in getting an extension of his patent for producing irregular forms, but at the end of the extension he had made practically nothing on it, and began to think of trying for the first time to turn the busts from marble blocks, took it to Washington, obtained plaster casts of the heads of Webster, Clay, Calhoun and others, and exhibited the busts in the rooms of the Capitol. The members were quite astonished when they found that these busts were wrought out by a machine, and that they were more exactly like the originals than any human hand could make. It produced a great sensation. They all supposed it a new invention. Blanchard said, 'No; not a new invention, but a new application of an old one of mine from which I never realized much, and I was the patentee.' A resolution was introduced in the Senate by Webster to renew it for a term of years, and it was rushed through without delay.

"When the news was first proclaimed in the Springs of a machine which turned gunstocks, mechanics came flocking from near and far to see it. Among those attracted were two members of the British Parliament, then traveling in the Springs of the North Sea. They reported the wonderful invention of Blanchard, by which the Americans were getting greatly in advance of them in gun manufacture, and moved a resolution for the purchase of the machine. The committee came over, examined the workings of the machine, returned and reported the facts to be as first stated. The doubting Thomas rose and said the Americans might have got up something to work their own words, but he believed that would never stand the test of a work which is supposed to have been made by a true John Bull member then arose and ridiculed them unmercifully for being so badly sold and played upon by the cunning Yankees.

"The very idea of turning a gunstock is found in the story of the man who knew who ever saw one." Finding the resolution would fall the two members withdrew it and moved for a committee to go to the United States army and report upon the matter. The committee came over, examined the workings of the machine, returned and reported the facts to be as first stated. The doubting Thomas rose and said the Americans might have got up something to work their own words, but he believed that would never stand the test of a work which is supposed to have been made by a true John Bull member then arose and ridiculed them unmercifully for being so badly sold and played upon by the cunning Yankees.

"Some parties in San Francisco, who have been working up the matter for some time past, have discovered the work of the steamer Brother Jonathan, which foundered off Point St. George, near Crescent City, in July, 1865. She lies in an upright position in about twenty-two fathoms of water, about fifty fathoms from the submerged rock on which she is supposed to have struck. There was about \$1,000,000 in Treasury notes and bullion in her safe, and the finders are fitting out an expedition for the recovery. The treasure belonged to the government, but the claimants have lapsed on the expiration of ten years after the loss.

THOMAS BLANCHARD.

The inventor of Machines for Turning Irregular Forms. A brief biography of Thomas Blanchard, the inventor of the mechanical combination for turning irregular forms, who died at Boston in 1865, has just been issued. The writer, Asa H. Waters, says that although the name of Thomas Blanchard is not so popularly known as many others who have achieved fame from single inventions, the writer boldly asserts that "it may be questioned whether another inventor can be named in this country or in Europe, during the last century, who has produced so many different labor-saving machines, applicable to such a great variety of uses and which have contributed so largely to the common necessities, comforts and economies of life. This language may seem to be a little exaggerated, but it must be remembered that not an armory exists in this country or in England where guns are made—hardly a human being that wears boots or shoes—scarcely a vessel that sails upon the ocean—nor a school where slates are used—not a carpet laid down, but that owes tribute to the genius of Thomas Blanchard for producing articles cheaper and better than any other man in the carriage wheels, plows, shovels and various articles of furniture. Latterly, his machines have been applied to carving, to architectural designs and even to stonemasonry. The number of his inventions is so great that it is impossible at present to enumerate them. One can hardly go into a tool shop, a mill, a wood yard, where motive power is used, in which he will not find more or less of Blanchard's mechanical notions.

Blanchard was a native of Sutton, Mass., and was born June 24, 1788. His father, Samuel, was a farmer, and lived on a poor, remote strip of land, where there was absolutely nothing to suggest a mechanical genius. While on the farm Thomas gave little if any promise of the latent powers within him. There was nothing in his surroundings to excite him. He was misplaced; schools were remote, and he seldom attended one for he was afflicted with a perverse impediment of speaking, so that the boys called him "Stammering Tom." At the age of eighteen he was engaged by his father to assist him in the saw-mill in his back mill, which he had just started in West Millbury. Young Thomas' duty was to lead the teams in a vice, with a hand maul, one by one. Once in a while he would stop to assist in the work, and he was not long before he was afflicted with a perverse impediment of speaking, so that the boys called him "Stammering Tom." At the age of eighteen he was engaged by his father to assist him in the saw-mill in his back mill, which he had just started in West Millbury. Young Thomas' duty was to lead the teams in a vice, with a hand maul, one by one. Once in a while he would stop to assist in the work, and he was not long before he was afflicted with a perverse impediment of speaking, so that the boys called him "Stammering Tom."

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Food in Season. In India the people feed mostly on rice and fruit; in Greenland on oil and seal-fat. The rice and fruit are quickly and speedily digested, and thus meet the wants of those whose nervous expenditure is reduced to a minimum by the climate, which also furnishes them with nearly all the heat they need. On the contrary, the Greenlanders' great need is heat, and this he finds in the food with which nature abundantly supplies him. The former keeping up his old fire in Greenland would speedily perish of cold; the latter would as certainly perish in India, either consumed by the internal fires, or breaking down by sheer inability to digest his arctic food.

Words of Wisdom. It is more honorable to acknowledge our faults than boast of our merits. It's human nature to love to make experiments at the expense of others. You should consider your adversary as absent when his senses are departed. Those gifts are ever the most acceptable which the giver has made precious. The first step to self-knowledge is self-denial. No one can attain to any knowledge except by a life process. Some men are with their character much as they are with their money; the less they have the more careful they have to be.

Tears are to be looked at not as proof of weakness. While on the face of a man, they are a sign of his noble and generous relief to the killing intensity of such grief. The sun, that mingles the mountains kissed by the clouds and the morning's sun, and speckles as the lily's inmost leaf, is not more pure than a pure woman.

No man can still himself up, or seek applause on friends in high places, or loud praise. If he belongs to the front he will get there in time, and will remain there when he does arrive. The gentle stream that reflects every object in its just proportion. The violent spirit, like troubled waters, renders black images of things distorted and broken. One had better sail boldly in almost any direction than without any direction at all. One had better sail in the maddest storm that ever troubled the sea of life than lie on the sea and drift with any chance wind that chooses to blow.

Happiness is a frail plant which seldom lives long on earth. It springs up when it will often in quiet, but in the corners, and seldom in cultivated gardens. It often blooms where one would least expect it and then suddenly and unexpectedly dies. Let a face be backed by blood and mellow, let the soil be harrowed by experience and made mellow as a plowed field by furrows that have torn it up; let it be made charitable by the sins of others, by a sense of its own sins, and you have a happy face. The changes of expression as the wind and weather.

The Dog that Stole the Kittens. A citizen on Adams avenue, East, who owns a handsome Scotch terrier dog—his name is "Brown"—was one day taking the young catkins away and sold them to the greatest grief of the mother. At that time a cat owned by a neighbor was carefully raising a litter of four kittens under the protection of a hen, the master of the terrier. It was noticed that the terrier was very deeply interested in the kittens, and earnestly watched the movements of the feline mother. The hen, who was sitting on the nest, was very much annoyed by the terrier's behavior, and during her absence the terrier carried her kittens one by one, with the greatest care, to the basket near the mother, and made to be in the mother's presence, and made to reproduce the original shape exactly, every time. This perfect uniformity of Blanchard's work suggested the idea of having the parts of the guns made at the machine, and the credit was given to the inventor. Hitherto they had been fitted separately, like Swiss watches and carefully lettered or numbered. This is the method in all our workshops, even to the bolts of a carriage, or the nuts and bolts of a machine. A resolution was introduced in the Senate by Webster to renew it for a term of years, and it was rushed through without delay.

Too Many Snake Bites. During the haying season a honest old farmer on the Gratio road employed three young men from the city to help cut and store his timothy. None of them liked work half as well as whisky, and a conspiracy was the result. About noon on a day when the sun fell down in the field, shouting and kicking, and the other two ran to the farmer with wild eyes and called out that their companion had been bitten by a rattlesnake and was lying on his back. The farmer rushed for his whisky, and the three harrowers got a big drink all around on the six, with the "bitten" one had a lay-off of half a day. The next forenoon a second one was bitten, and again the farmer rushed for his bottle. It was a nice little job for the boys, and on the third day the third one out in his claim for whisky and yelled for the whisky bottle. The farmer took the matter very coolly this time, and after making particular inquiries as to the size of the snake, location of the bite, and the nature and so forth, he slowly continued: "Day before yesterday James was bitten and drank a quart of good whisky. Yesterday John was bitten and drank a quart of good whisky. Today you got a bite and the best thing you can do is to smell their breaths end lay in the shade while the rest of us eat dinner!"

The man got well in ten minutes, and not only recovered, but was cured during the season.—Detroit Free Press.

The ex-Khediye to New York: "Since I made you a present of the Egyptian obelisk I have failed in business. Couldn't you allow me \$30 or \$40 for it?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Terrific exhausting are the night sweats which accompany consumption. But they, as well as the paroxysms of coughing, are invariably broken up by Dr. Hays' Balsam for Lung, which conquers the deadly malarial, as well as bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, asthma, diphtheria and all other affections of the throat, lungs and chest. It moves mounds from untimely graves and is invaluable in rescuing children from the croup, whooping cough and quincy. It is sold by all druggists.

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