FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Orchard and Nursery.

The fruit grower should know the peculiarities of each variety; some must be marketed at once, some autumn varieties come into eating condition in a week or two after picking, while others keep into early winter. The latest or winter sorts should be left on the trees until there is danger of hard frosts, or the readiness with which the fruit and the leaves part from the tree shows that growth is complete and the fruit has nothing more to gain by hanging. The importance of assorting is a matter that cannot be too often repeated. No work done by the fruit grower will pay so well. If you doubt it, put up ten pounds of fruit as it comes from the tree, and assort the same quantity, making five pounds of extra, three pounds fair, and two pounds seconds, and note the returns of the two lots. A few poor apples will spoil the sale of a barrel of good ones; the whole will be judged by the poorest.

Winter fruit, whether apples or pears, must be kept as cool as may be and not freeze; do not put it into the cellar until cool nights make it advisable.

Pears vary more, and need more careful watching than apples, and it will pay the grower to study the peculiarities of each sort. New half barrels lined with white paper, with the fruit packed in solid by hand, are the most profitable packages for all except fine specimens of high colored fruit, such as Bartlett, Clairgeau, Beurre d' Anjou, etc.; these should be wrapped singly in soft paper, placed in single layers in shallow boxes, and sold by count.

Ordering trees, whether planting is done in fall or next spring, is advisable now. The trees are taken up in less hurry, and when at hand can be set at once or in spring as may seem best; they may be kept until spring if "heeled-in," just as safely as if they stood in the nursery. A trench or ditch is opened in a place where water will not stand; the trees are laid in one at a time, in a slanting position (about forty-five deg.), covering the roots of each with fine soil; each lot of varieties should be separated from the next by a marking stake, so that there will be no confusion. See that earth is well filled in among the roots and no hollows left, and before cold weather the earth should be banked up well around them.

The question of fall planting must be governed by locality; but for all but stone fruits, except where the winter is very severe, fall is the preferable season. Choose small thrifty trees.—*Agriculturist.*

Housekeeping Department.

SUET CRUST FOR PIES.—Chop the suet extremely small and add five or six ounces of it to one pound of flour, with a little salt; mix these with cold water into a paste, and work it very smooth.

SPICED VINEGAR.—For every quart of vinegar allow three ounces of grated horseradish, one ounce each of pepper and allspice (whole), two ounces of white mustard seed, two onions chopped fine. Simmer all together five minutes, and when cold pour it over boiled cabbage or beets.

TOMATO JAM.—Peel and seed the tomatoes. For every pound of fruit allow a pound of sugar and two lemons. The lemons should be boiled till soft, the seeds removed, the skin and pulp mashed fine and added to the tomatoes. Stir constantly while boiling until the jam is perfectly smooth and quite thick, then put it in jelly glasses or jars.

BARLEY WATER.—First boil two ounces of barley in some water to extract the coloring; throw that water away and put the barley into a jug; pour some boiling water over it and let it stand for a short time. Peel a lemon very thin, pour some boiling water over it, with a little sugar, and mix it with the barley water, adding the lemon juice.

SAVORY TOASTS.—Cut some slices of bread free from crust about an inch in thickness, and two inches and a half square; butter the slips thickly, spread a little mustard on them, and then cover them with a deep layer of grated cheese and ham seasoned rather highly with cayenne; fry them in butter, but do not turn them in the pan; lift them out, and place them in a Dutch oven for four minutes to dissolve the cheese; serve them very hot.

GINGERBREAD.—The following recipe produces superior thin gingerbread. Flour, one pound; carbonate of magnesia, quarter of an ounce; mix; add treacle, half pound; moist sugar, quarter of a pound; melted butter, two ounces; tartaric acid, dissolved in a little water, one drachm. Make a stiff dough, then add powdered ginger and cinnamon (cassia), of each, one drachm; grated nutmeg, one ounce; set it aside for half an hour, and put in the oven. It should not be kept longer than two or three hours, at the utmost, before being baked.

How to Keep Meat Fresh a Long Time.

We have for authority the *Inter-Ocean* for saying that the following recipe is worth the subscription price of any newspaper in the land: As soon as the animal heat is out of the meat, slice it up ready for cooking. Prepare a large jar by scalding with hot salt and water. Mix salt and pulverized saltpeter in the proportion of one tablespoonful of saltpeter to one teacupful of salt. Cover the bottom of the jar with a sprinkle of salt and pepper, the same as if just going to the table, and continue in this manner till the jar is full.

Fold a cloth or towel and wet it in strong salt and water, in which a little of the saltpeter is dissolved. Press the cloth closely over the meat and set it in a cool place. Be sure and press the cloth on tightly as each layer is removed, and your meat will keep for months. It is a good plan to let your meat lie over night after it is sliced, before packing. They drain off all the blood that oozes from it. It will be necessary to change the cloth occasionally, or take it off and wash it—first in cold water—then scald salt and water as at first. In this way farmers can have fresh meat the year round.

The Value of Improved Stock.

If a farmer keeps thirty cows that average $30 a year each for milk, and he can increase the average to $40 a year by the use of a thoroughbred bull, of a good milking breed, he can afford to pay a good round price for such a bull. And yet better results than this have been accomplished. If he is raising cattle for beef, and he can add two hundred pounds to the carcass of each, by the time it is ready for the shambles, by the use of a short-horn bull, it will certainly be profitable for him to pay a good price for such a bull. And yet this is the average result of using thoroughbred bulls on the native cows of the country, as estimated by all the best stock breeders. And this two hundred pounds is clear gain, for it is produced with no greater consumption of food. If the use of a thoroughbred ram on a flock of common ewes will increase the weight of fleece one pound, on an average, certainly more than "five in a hundred could make it pay;" whether more than one in the five would or not, is another question. And so with hogs. The difference between the common "woods" breed of the past, and the improved breeds of to-day, is beyond comparison.

A Warni g.

The appearance of a school of red fish in the harbor of Honolulu bids fair to rob the Centennial celebration of the presence of the king of the Sandwich islands. The appearance of these fish is to the royal house of the islands what the appearance of the "white woman" is to the haughty house of the Hohenzollerns—a portent of the death of the reigning sovereign and a sign of woe to the dynasty. The king is already smitten with illness, and his situation occasions grave anxiety among his subjects. The red fish, is is said, appeared before the deaths of Kamehameha and Lunalio, thus taking the responsibility of the national bereavement from the local liquor dealers. We earnestly hope that the present sovereign's illness will turn out to be slight, and his alarm at the appearance of the red fish baseless. Indeed, says the *World*, we confidently expect him to put in a prompt and robust appearance at the opening of the Centennial ceremonies, marching just back of the brass band.

THE FATE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

An Interesting Letter from Dr. Hayes—Relics of the Expedition.

Dr. Hayes has written a letter relative to the Pandora and her expedition to the North pole. In this he says: From Carey island the course of the Pandora was a little to the south of west, and into Lancaster sound, directly on the track of Franklin; then into Barrow straits, on to Beechy island, which lies at the entrance to Wellington channel, and where Franklin passed the winter of 1845-46, and where three of his party lie buried. Their graves were first discovered in 1850, but here all traces of the missing expedition were lost until 1853, when Dr. Rae, traveling overland from the northern part of Hudson's bay, in a northwesterly direction, fell in with a party of Esquimaux, in whose possession he found numerous relics and learned of the destruction of the entire party.

But he was utterly unable to locate the position of their misfortune or to learn of the cause thereof, further than that a small body of men, dragging one boat, reached Montreal island, at the mouth of Back's or Great Fish river, where, in the shelter of the boat, they all lay down and died, though, as he learned from the natives, not until some of them had resorted to the terrible alternative of cannibalism. Here the matter rested until Captain McClintock, in the steamer Fox, in 1858, approached the locality from the north. Captain Young, commander of the Pandora, was with McClintock on this voyage.

After a search of ten years the locality of Franklin's ships was fixed within certain limits, and all that McClintock and Young had to do was to push south from Barrow straits by ship as far as possible, and, there wintering, to search in the spring for traces. Three routes were open to them. In the first place they might go down Prince Regent's inlet. To the westward of this inlet lies the large island of North Somerset. Then comes Peel sound, then Prince of Wales' land, then McClintock's channel, discovered by Captain Young while on a sledge journey in the spring of 1859. McClintock went down Prince Regent inlet, where Parry and Ross had previously gone, and were finally brought up by the ice in Belloit strait, which separates Somerset island from Boothia peninsula, the northernmost point of the mainland of the American continent. This is in latitude seventy-two degrees. Thence to the south lies King William's land—an island over a hundred miles long, near the northern extremity of which Franklin's ships were beset and finally frozen fast in the thick-ribbed ice, after having come south through Peel sound in September, 1846—which fact was determined by McClintock and Young during their sledge journey in 1859; for, on visiting that island, a large heap of stones or cairn was discovered by them, and under it a record, carefully secured in a bottle, which told, in a few brief words, the story the world was so long in search of. And this story was to the effect that Franklin had, after wintering on Beechy island and trying to reach Behring straits in the direction of the pole, where the open sea was supposed to lie, gone south toward the American coast in the hope of following its course toward the Pacific ocean, when the ships were unfortunately beset. It further states that Sir John Franklin himself died long before the final castastrophe. Here is the record:

* APRIL 25, 1848.

H. M. ships Erebus and Terror were deserted on the 22d April, five leagues N. N. W. of this, having beset since twelfth of September, 1846. The officers and crew, consisting of one hundred and five souls, under the command of Captain F. R. M. Crozier, landed here in lat. sixty-nine deg. thirty-seven min. forty-two sec. N.; longitude ninety-eight deg. forty-one min. W. Sir John Franklin died on the eleventh of June, 1847; and the total loss by deaths in the expedition has been, to this date, nine officers and fifteen men. (Signed)

F. R. M. CROZIER, Captain and Senior Officer.
JAMES FITZJAMES, Captain H. M. ship Erebus. And start on to-morrow for Back's Fish river.

This record was, however, written on the margin of a paper which had nearly a year before been placed there while all was well, and which runs as follows:

28TH OF MAY, 1847.

H. M. ships Erebus and Terror wintered in the ice in lat. seventy deg. five min. N., lon. ninety-eight deg. twenty-five min. W. Having wintered in 1846-7 at Beechy island, in lat. seventy-four deg. forty-three min. twenty-eight sec. N., lon. ninety-one deg. thirty-nine min. fifteen sec. W., after having ascended Wellington channel to lat. seventy-seven deg. and returned by the west side of Cornwallis island, Sir John Franklin commanding the expedition. All well. Party consisting of two officers and six men left the ships on Monday, twenty-fourth of May, 1847.

GM. GORE, Lieutenant.
CHARLES F. DES VOEUX, Mate.

In this main part of the document is an error of date, as shown by the subsequent record previously quoted, wherein it is stated that the Erebus and Terror wintered at Beechy island in 1846-7. The correct date of that wintering at Beechy island was 1845-6.

After leaving the ships and depositing the record we know nothing more of the sadly unfortunate party, except the traces already alluded to, brought by Dr. Rae, and a boat mounted on runners found by McClintock, drawn up on a low point of land, with two skeletons in it and two rifles leaning against its side.

This is all that was ever found, except a few relics discovered by our countryman, the late Captain Hall, who spent several years in the search. He found no additional records, but he became satisfied, from information received through the natives, of the exact locality of all the books, papers and documents relating to the expedition. These were reported as being buried by the retreating party in a stone cairn on the southwest coast of King William's land, and the locality, it was thought, could be reached. To obtain these records would be an important achievement, and would clear up all mystery concerning this ill-starred expedition. A large reward for their recovery was offered by the late Lady Franklin, whose indefatigable zeal and devotion so long kept the search in active operation.

A Scene from Life.

Of all the terrible curses that have destroyed humanity, intemperance is the most fearful. A young man entered the barroom of a village tavern and called for a drink. "No," said the landlord, "you have had delirium tremens once, and I cannot sell you any more."

He stepped aside to make room for a couple of young men who had just entered, and the landlord waited upon them very politely. The other stood by, silent and sullen, and when they had finished he walked up to the landlord and thus addressed him:

"Six years ago, at their age, I stood where those young men are now—I was a man with fair prospects. Now, at the age of twenty-eight, I am a wreck, body and mind. You led me to drink. In this room I formed the habit that has been my ruin. Now sell me a few glasses more, and your work will be done! I shall soon be out of the way; there is no hope for me. But they can be saved. Do not sell it to them. Sell to me and let me die, and the world will be rid of me; but for Heaven's sake sell no more to them!"

The landlord listened, pale and trembling. Setting down his decanter, he exclaimed:

"God help me! this is the last drop I will ever sell to any one!"

And he kept his word.

Mortality Among Elephants.

We learn from the Rangoon *Burmah Mail* of a large mortality among elephants in that district; and a more serious loss of the same kind has been experienced by the Moulmein foresters, on the Thoungyeen side. The *Mail* states the value of each elephant is from 800 rupees to 1,500 rupees ($400 to $750) and that the loss to their people in the aggregate is very considerable, greatly enhancing the price of these useful animals, and increasing the difficulty and cost of bringing timber to market.

A resident of Gahenna, O., named Samuel Turner, was detected stealing wheat from a neighbor and selling it at a mill. His disgrace so preyed upon his mind that he took a large dose of arsenic and died. The man was miserably poor, having a wife and five children to support, which no doubt induced the theft.

THE VOLCANOES OF ICELAND.

Wonders of the Valley of the Skjalfandafljot—Columns of Smoke from Twenty Craters—Fountains of Fire Lighting Up the Night.

Mr. W. L. Watts sends from Leith, Scotland, the following graphic account of a grand eruption witnessed by him in Iceland last August: When on my way from Husavik, in the north of Iceland, I stopped on Sunday, Aug. 15, at Storavellis, in the valley of Skjalfandafljot, where I received the intelligence that ashes had fallen that morning at an adjacent farm. During the previous night a man had arrived from Grimstathis, a farm upon the eastern and opposite side of the Myvatns Oraefi. He reported that between ten and eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, Aug. 15, a smart shock of earthquake was felt at Grimstathis, traveling from northeast to southwest. Almost simultaneously, columns of smoke were seen upon the plain of Myvatns Oraefi, and forthwith an eruption commenced from the same place as last spring. Upon Aug. 15, accompanied by a farmer from Granavata, I set out for the eruption. Upon entering a valley through the mountains of Myvatn, by which we intended to gain access to the Myvatns Oraefi, a few columns of smoke in the distance warned us that the eruption lay before us. Upon emerging from the glen, a line of some twenty columns of smoke burst upon our view, at the northern end of which lay two clusters of black mounds, in close proximity. From the most southerly of these rose two columns of dense black smoke, which struggled to ascend, but were beaten back to earth again by the wind in a foul, heavy mist, which spread itself out for miles over the lava streams, both old and new, which lay to the eastward, clinging to the higher crags in dark, ominous masses, and obscuring large patches of the more level plain. From its neighbor to the north, a high column of stones, ashes and dust proclaimed the principal volcano vent.

Suddenly, with a roar, every particle seemed on fire, explosion after explosion casting the larger fragments to a height beyond our view in the dense canopy of vapor which hung over us, making the ground upon which we stood and the rocks round us tremble. Lava then poured over its more northerly side, the large column of fire sank, and stones and cinders were alone ejected. This column of *debris* continually varied both in size and volume, sometimes clustering "like a large swarm of bees" in the smoke, apparently scarcely one hundred feet above the crater; and other times it shot up in a large column with explosive violence, the masses of scoriæ shrieking in their passage through the air. Then came a calm, and with a rending sound a new crater opened in the north side of the mound, from which a stream of white hot lava tumbled in a cascade of fiery froth upon the old lava stream of last spring, where a dense smoke and the sound of splitting rocks marked its progress, till it oozed in bright red viscid masses through the interstices of the older lava, forming pools which glowed for a moment, and turned black beyond the limit of the elder stream.

It was now a dim twilight, though only five P. M. We stopped amid a patch of wild oats, which grow profusely upon many parts of these sands, leaving our horses to feed while we took our evening meal upon a sand bank commanding a full view of the eruption, now little more than a mile away. Our horses did not appear particularly frightened at the eruption, but for half an hour stood quietly looking at it, and then took quietly to grazing. Upon approaching the volcano as closely as the heated lava would allow, I found it to consist of a cluster of black mounds, which together described an irregular cone, in the center of which, probably toward the termination of the eruption of last spring, a large crater had been formed a little more than a mile in circumference, the north wall of which had been broken down.

From the center of this rose the conical walls of the crater that was now "erupting." In the north side of this was likewise a breach, through which, from time to time, the lava poured. From this cone a dense column of white-hot atoms and fiery fragments was being ejected to the height of perhaps three or four hundred feet. Very little smoke was emitted from the cone, and the many cracks in its sides enabled the glow from the intense fire within to shine through with such a brilliancy that it gave the cone the appearance of being wrapped in flames. Two smaller craters were now visible—one in the north base of the mound, and one a short distance in the lava itself still further north. They were burning with a brilliant white light, emitting a rending, crushing sound, but at this period they were "erupting" with little violence. From these two craters the principal lava streams were flowing, which now advanced with considerable rapidity, encircling from time to time patches of the ancient lava and sand which lay in the plain, and finally overwhelming them in its fiery embrace. Night had now closed in, and as heated lava and the noxious gases from it prevented me getting any nearer than a few hundred yards from the principal crater, I lit my pipe at the nearest lava, and returned to camp. There, sitting by my tent upon the high bank of volcanic sand, for a long time I sat gazing at the grand, glorious spectacle of the vast fountains of fire that in a continuous stream assailed the sky.

Fight with an Alligator.

A party of eight or ten people met at the Okapilco creek, Quitman, Ga., to seine the different lakes and "eddies" along the run of the creek between the turnpike and the railroad bridges. Nothing unusual transpired on this occasion until late in the afternoon, when in seining a deep lake formed by a bend in the channel of the stream, the seine became so heavy and difficult to drag that it was concluded that it was hung to a root or log on bottom. Lum Devane, a lad sixteen years of age, went under for the purpose of disentangling the seine.

Upon reaching bottom, a distance of some six or seven feet, he found what he supposed to be a log, and embracing it started to the surface of the water with it. His surprise as well as that of the party can be better imagined than expressed when, upon rising, the supposed log was found to be an alligator. As soon as the water's surface was reached the infuriated monster, taking in the situation at a glance, made a terrific lunge at Devane, and striking him in the breast knocked him into deep water, and continuing the attack caught him between his vice-like jaws around the waist.

Seeing the danger of their comrade the rest of the party sprang to his relief. Fortunately for Devane he was on the outside and the alligator was upon the inside of the seine, which, being strong and firmly held at each end, somewhat impeded the vicious reptile in his attack. This, together with the prompt and fearless action of the entire party, who seized his alligatorship by the tail and legs and commenced to use their knives on him diligently, is all that saved the life of Lum Devane. He was finally extricated from the jaws of the maddened monster, and escaped with a few painful though not dangerous bruises and bites.

The alligator was about eight feet in length, and it was with difficulty that six or eight strong and courageous men succeeded, after inserting their knives in several tender places, in bringing him ashore. He fought desperately as long as life lasted, and in his dying moments he set up a deafening roar almost equal to that of a lion.

Hop Sticks.

A clergyman having been inducted into a living in Kent, England, took occasion during his first sermon to introduce the word "optics." At the conclusion of the service a farmer who was present thanked him for the discourse, but intimated that he had made a small mistake in one word, softening down at the same time the severity of his criticism by saying: "Yet we all know very well, sir, what you meant." On the clergyman's making further inquiries about this word, the farmer replied: "What you called hop-sticks, in this part of the country we call hop-poles."

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Items of Interest from Home and Abroad.

The New York Produce Exchange has fixed five grades for oats, viz.: White, high mixed, No. 2, No. 3, no grade. White oats shall be bright, sound, clean, free from other grain, and shall weigh not less than thirty-two pounds to the measured bushel. High mixed oats shall be two-thirds white, and equal to No. 2 in all other respects. No. 2 oats shall be sound, reasonably clean, and reasonably free from other grain. No 3 oats shall be fit for warehousing, otherwise unequal to No. 2. No grade shall include all oats damp, unsound, dirty, or from any other cause unfit for No. 3.

.....The board of charities of Utica, N. Y., is attempting the solution of the tramp question by requiring all able-bodied stragglers applying for relief to break stones upon the public streets. There is a perceptible diminution of the number of applicants already..... Ex-Senator Chandler, of Michigan, has taken the oath of office as secretary of the interior.....

Prof. Watson, of Ann Harbor, Mich., announces the discovery of a new planet in right ascension one hour and no minutes, north, declination six degrees fifty-four minutes. It is of the tenth magnitude. Its daily motion is south five degrees..... Charles Revere, a well-known sporting man of New York, owner of the trotting horse Butler, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head, on account of trouble with a woman.....It is stated in German naval circles that Prince Frederick ("Fritz") intends to visit the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia, and that a German squadron will escort him thither.....

A Bavarian decree gives effect to the imperial laws introducing compulsory civil marriages.

.....Two more steamers have arrived at Havana from Spain with re-enforcements for the army.....Several hundred students of Yale College amused themselves by hooting and throwing missiles at a procession of Odd Fellows, until the latter turned and charged the crowd with their swords. Several students were slightly injured.

The Congress of Costa Rica, Central America, has passed a law declaring the Port Limon, on the Caribbean sea, a free port, and offering inducements to immigrants to that section by permitting public lands to be acquired at a nominal rate and allowing manufactories of rum and tobacco to be established in that part of the State for domestic use or export without payment of duties.....Recent rains have swollen the rivers and streams in Devonshire, England, causing inundations. The loss is considerable. Torquay, Teignmouth, and Dawlish were flooded, and much damage was done to property..... The Warren avenue Baptist Church, of Boston, has stricken out that portion of the declaration of faith which makes immersion a prerequisite to communion. The church is one hundred and twenty-five years old....The trunk lines running out of Chicago have advance passenger fares about $2.....

A verdict for $6,000 damages and five per cent. for counsel fee was rendered in a Brooklyn (N. Y.) court against a liquor dealer who bit off a piece of the nose and thumb of Walter Westlake.....Governor Tilden's commission made their seventh report, showing an absolute waste of half a million of money on the Buffalo canal "improvements," and inculpating Appraiser Davis and Commissioner Fay in corrupt and unlawful practices.....Two hundred dwellings, a synagogue, and five schools in the town of Widsy, Russian Poland, have been burned. Some persons perished and three thousand are homeless..... A terrible fire took place at Iquique, Peru. Three-quarters of the town are said to have been destroyed.

.....A white murderer named Dugan was taken from a sheriff in Arkansas, by a crowd of masked men, who shot him. Dugan was under sentence of death for killing his son-in-law under slight provocation.

The elections in Lima, Peru, were attended with serious riots. Several persons were killed or wounded.....The referee in the case of the people against the estate of James Watson, late county auditor, under the old Tweed ring in New York, has decided that the sum of $648,491.57 belongs to the county, that being the amount Watson wrongfully received on false bills..... Later reports from England show the floods to have been quite serious. At Sheffield the damage was very heavy. The valley of the River Don formed a lake half a mile wide and fully fifteen miles long. Many collieries and iron-works were flooded and thousands of operatives thrown out of employment. Accounts from the valleys of the Wye, Severn and Avon state that those rivers have also risen to an unusual height, whereby great damage has been entailed. At Rotherham, in Yorkshire, two thousand people were thrown out of employment because of the flooding of the factories.....A policeman in Denver, Col., while searching a house which had been occupied by Italian musicians, found the bodies of one man and three boys in the cellar, all bearing marks of a knife.....Barnum's Hotel, on Broadway, New York, has been closed, as unsuccessful..... Colonel John House and his son Manny, of Franklin, Tenn., were both killed during a personal altercation, by a man named Griffin.....China is to send a mission to England to apologize for the Yunnan outrage..... Frederick Hudson, the eminent journalist and author, was struck by a train of cars while driving across the track at Concord, Mass., and received injuries from which he died next day.....Eight of the indicted distillers and rectifiers of St. Louis surrendered at discretion, and withdrew all claims to the property seized by the government for taxes, and amounting to over $500,000.

A firm in Manchester, England, has begun the importation of American calicoes..... Proposals for the new Canadian loan for two and one half millions sterling have just been issued in London. Three-fifths of the sum are guaranteed by the Imperial government, and the other-two fifths are issued on the credit of Canada alone..... A telegram from Berlin says that the estimates for the German empire for 1876 show a deficiency of $3,750,000.

.....During the recent storms in Great Britain a number of vessels were lost and many lives sacrificed.....Ben Boyd, the most notorious and successful counterfeiter in the country, was captured by secret service detectives in Illinois. They also seized a number of plates and much material for making counterfeits.....The commissioner of internal revenue has decided that weiss bier is a similar liquor to ale, porter and lager bier, and subject to a tax of one dollar per barrel of thirty-one gallons.....Mrs. Walton, the divorced wife of Hiram Walton, of Mercer, Me., who has been living with Greenleaf Tracy, was shot and killed by Tracy in a fit of jealousy. He then fled to the woods and shot himself. Both were dead when found.....Henry Brown, the negro who killed Phillip Pfarr, a German, living a few miles from St. Louis, and then ravished and robbed his wife, was hanged in the yard of the jail. In a brief speech made on the scaffold, he admitted having struck Pfarr the blow which caused his death, but denied outraging Mrs. Pfarr.

The commissioner of pensions, in his recently finished report, states the number of new pensions created during the past year as 11,557, and the number dropped as 12,877. The total number of pensions is 234,821, including 884 widows of revolutionary soldiers. The total disbursements during the year were $29,683,116.63, leaving a balance from the appropriation of $397,871.31.....Indian Commissioner Smith has resigned..... Attorney-General Pierrepont has given an opinion that the faith of the government is unqualifiedly pledged to pay the principal and interest of the 3.65 District bonds. Charles O'Conor, of New York, coincides in this matter..... Uri Carruth, editor of the Vineland (N. Y.) *Independent*, who was shot by Mr. Lardis last March, and from whose brain the bullet had never been taken, died a few days since, and Landis was immediately surrendered by his bondsmen and locked up in jail.....Moody and Sankey, the revivalists, opened their initiatory service in Brooklyn, N. Y., at eight o'clock of a Sunday morning, with an audience of five thousand, four thousand more being unable to gain admission. The afternoon service at four o'clock was likewise crowded, and a church half a block away was opened to the throng, who were exhorted by Rev. Dr. Cuyler.

.....A dwelling in Cheshire, Conn., was burned, and Mr. and Mrs. Murray, a young married couple, were burned to death.....A carriage was precipitated into the Schuylkill river opposite Manayunk, Pa., containing five persons, three of whom, Henry Getler, his mother and child, were drowned.

The survivors of the Balaklava charge, soldiers of the Light Brigade, the "six hundred" who rode "into the valley of death," celebrated the twenty-first anniversary with a public dinner in London..... Baltimore dedicated its new city hall with appropriate exercises and a procession containing ten thousand men. The building cost over $2,000,000.....

The annual report of the free delivery division of the Post-office department shows that there are now employed by that bureau of the service 2,195 carriers, and that they delivered during the fiscal year nearly $28,000,000 letters, 68,000,000 newspapers, and some 34,000,000 postal cards, besides collecting about 243,000,000 pieces of various kinds. The total cost of the service was $1,880,642, and the receipts from postage on local matter $1,947,559.....

A disease, similar to the epizootic, is killing off the cattle in several counties bordering on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware river.

.....Russia has decided to exhibit only her peculiar products at the Centennial exhibition.

.....A skiff, heavily loaded with colored people, was crossing the river at St. Louis and sprang a leak. One of the occupants became excited and capsized the boat, and all were drowned except two.....A boiler in the paper mill of Morrison, Barre & Co., at Roaring Springs, Pa., exploded, destroying the mill and injuring ten men. Loss, $200,000.....The treasurer of Santo Domingo announces that the republic is bankrupt.

UNITED STATES TREASURER'S REPORT.

The annual report of Treasurer New contains the following statement of receipts and expenditures by warrants for the fiscal year, 1875:

Receipts.	
Customs	$157,167,722 35
Internal revenue	110,007,493 58
Lands	1,413,640 17
Miscellaneous sources	49,111,195.00
Total revenues	$288,000,051.10
Public debt funded, 1881	$96,505,700.00
United States notes	103,907,956.00
Fractional currency	36,612,800.00
Gold certificates	70,250,100.00
Certificates deposit, U. S. notes	80,695,000.00
Total receipts	$675,971,607.10
Expenditures.	
Customs	$19,713,707.36
Internal revenue	5,188,513.31
Interior civil	4,957,535.50
Treasury proper	33,643,262 42
Diplomatic	3,199,220.84
Quarterly salaries	564,517.65
Judiciary	3,803,945.90
Total civil and miscellaneous	$71,070,702.98
War department	$41,120,645.98
Navy department	21,497,626.27
Interior department	37,840,873.04
Public debt interest	103,093,544.57
Total expenditures	$274,623,392.34
Public debt-Redemption bonds	$104,550,929.00
Redemption of U. S. notes	410,143,001.00
Redemption of national currency	40,364,671 48
Redemption of coin certificates	71,278,900.00
Redemption deposit, U. S. notes	81,040,000.00
Total, including items on account of public debt	$682,000,885.32
Balance of covered money, June 30, 1875	144,702,416.41

There are on file in the Treasury department, at Washington, orders for nearly $1,000,000 of the issue of fifty-cent currency, of which there is a great scarcity throughout the country, and there is none whatever on hand, and it will be several months before the orders can be filed..... The United States consul at Christian, Norway, writes that a royal mandate was issued in August, prohibiting the importation of potatoes from North America, either as merchandise or ship's provisions, without having been previously carefully examined and cleaned..... The bronze statue of Stonewall Jackson, presented to Virginia by some Englishmen, was unveiled with great ceremony at Richmond. Gen. Joe Johnson was master of ceremonies.....The London correspondent of the Liverpool *Courier* says: "After Cardinal McCloskey's sojourn in Paris he will come here. The Catholics of London are preparing an imposing demonstration of welcome. Cardinal McCloskey will be the guest of Cardinal Manning while here."..... It is thought that the British government will prosecute the consignees of the arms shipped hence to China during the recent negotiations. Several cargoes are now *en route*..... Advices from Portland, Oregon, say the election for congressman brought out a very light vote. Mr. Lane, Democrat, is probably elected by 1,200 majority..... The enterprising town of Virginia City, Nev., was greatly crippled by a fire which destroyed the principal business portion, including, in the words of a telegram, "every decent building." Theaters, newspaper offices, banks, express offices and dwellings were swept out of existence in a short time, and as there was no water, the engines were of no avail, and buildings had to be blown up to check the flames. The mills and hoisting works of the celebrated Consolidated Virginia and Ophir mines, on the Comstock lode, were burned, involving heavy loss. It is estimated that ten thousand people were rendered homeless and destitute by the conflagration. The loss can only be counted by millions.

The German Christmas.

It is strange that Christ's mass should be the great festival of the year in Protestant Germany. In Catholic countries New Year's day is the grand fete when visits and congratulations are exchanged, and bonbons and *etrennes* fly about as at carnival times. With us Christmas means good cheer, full houses, blankets, coal, and clothing, clubs; plum puddings dance while "greasy Joan doth keel the pot;" gardens are robbed of their greenery, fair damsels decorate the churches; there is feasting in the hut and flirting in the hall; full services, neighborly greetings, peace and good-will all around the parish. The holly, the yew, the ivy, and the rosemary climb up the pillars of the sanctuary; the jolly mistletoe hangs in the halls; no matter if "coughing down the parson's saw," he cuts his sermons short without any scruples at defrauding religion, and sends them all home to their plum puddings. It is Christmas, and the people want to be happy in their homes. But a German Christmas differs widely from ours; there is more sentiment (as we have seen) about it, and less solid hospitality. More bustle, mystery, and preparation, but less religious fervor. The churches are bare and empty, the poor owe less to the bounty of the rich; it is more a domestic festival, celebrated in each household for its own special members, than a stretching forth of the arms of brotherly love, of tenderness, of charity, of loving kindness, which would fain embrace the whole world and greet all humanity anew. No, the rapture of rejoicing that greets the nativity in rational Germany quite loses sight of the great origin of the popular festival, and it is only in fanciful utterances that the child learns something of the Christ whose mass it is. It may be that the lonely legends with which the babe is fed sow the seeds of unbelief in his mind, and that, later on, he finds, with dismay, that the religion of his childhood can never be the religion of his riper years; that all the fanciful fiction, and sweet, graceful stories which made him worship with the magi, and tremble at the manger, are but so many foolish fables with which his innocence has been cheated. It has been said by a great divine that a child should be drawn up to heaven, not heaven brought down to him; and, looking at the outcome of German Protestantism, one is not inclined to dispute the assertion.

Nothing Mean About Him.

A Western paper tells the following: A man went into a confectionery store a few days ago, in an excited manner, and rushing up to the proprietor said:

"Do you make wedding cakes?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I'm goin' ter git married terday, an' I want a cake. I'm no slouch, an' I'm goin' ter dew things right up to the handle. I don't intend ter git married but once, and yew bet I'll make things howl."

The proprietor smiled blandly, and commenced lifting out ten and twenty-dollar wedding cakes, gorgeous in beautiful frosting and artificial flowers. Among the rest was a small plain cake.

"How much is that?" asked the excited purchaser.

"Four bits."

"That's the one for me; here's your money, old pard; wrap her up. Thar's nothin' mean about me; I wouldn't care if it was six bits."

The proprietor gazed after the purchaser as he went out about five minutes, the picture of amazement, and then he sat down and fanned himself for half an hour, and then got up and consumed half an hour more in slowing away the piles of fancy cakes and talking to himself softly, but his bland smile had passed away for the time being.

Siberian Exiles.

Although half a million persons have been banished from Russia to Siberia between the years 1822 and 1872, there has been scarcely any perceptible increase in the population, and, as fifty years ago, there is not one inhabitant per square verst. The reason of this is that the number of persons who make their escape from Siberia continues to be very great. In 1873, for instance, the number of persons entered on the lists as condemned to banishment in the Irkoutsk district was 10,387, while 1,994 only were to be traced as residing there; and in the ten years from 1835 to 1845 no fewer than 12,652 fugitives were recaptured. In 1859 the exiles in the government factories at Nertchinsk attempted to escape in a body, and 580 of them have been returned as "missing" ever since.

AT SCHOOL.—An exchange complains that children are sent to school too young and study too much out of school hours. It says: When the doors of the schoolhouse close in the afternoon upon the school children, they should literally close out from them all that pertains to school until the opening next morning. A teacher should be a teacher, not simply a mere hearer of recitations. Lessons should be learned and taught at school, never at home.

A lady said to us the other day: "Dobbins' Electric Soap (made by Cragin & Co., Phila., Pa.) has saved my life. It has so lessened my labors when I have been worn out." Try it at once. *

MYSTERY SOLVED.—The great secret of the wonderful success of Vegetine. It strikes at the root of disease by purifying the blood, restoring the liver and kidneys to healthy action, invigorating the nervous system.—*Com.*

Few people unacquainted with physiological chemistry are aware of the quantity of iron in the blood, but all should know the importance of keeping up the supply, for debility, disease and death are sure to follow when the quantity becomes too much reduced. The Peruvian Syrup (a protoxide of iron) supplies that vital element, and has cured many chronic diseases.—*Com.*

Many persons suffer with sick headache and nervous headache, usually induced by costiveness, indigestion, etc. Such persons will find relief if not cure, by keeping the bowels open with small doses of *Parsons, Purgative Pills.*—*Com.*

Have you inflammatory sore throat, stiff joints, or lameness from any cause whatever? Have you rheumatic or other pains in any part of the body? If so, use *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment*, internally and externally.—*Com.*

1500 per cent. profit was realized upon a "put" on 500 shares Mo. Pacific R. R. stock during the first week in October; then why go to the silver mines of Colorado or the gold mines of California, when you have a mine of gold in your backyard? Explanatory circular "how it is done," sent *free* by Buckwalter & Co., bankers and brokers, 10 Wall St., N. Y.—*Com.*

Important to Travelers.

Persons visiting New York or leaving by the cars from Grand Central Depot, will save annoyance and expense of carriage hire and baggage expressage by stopping at Grand Union Hotel, opposite Grand Central Depot. Over 350 elegantly furnished rooms and fitted up at a cost of $900,000. European plan. Guests can live more luxuriously for less money at the Grand Union than at any other first-class house in New York. Stages and street cars pass the door every minute to and from the city. See that the hotel you enter is the Grand Union Hotel.—*Com.*

CONSUMPTION CAN BE CURED.

SCHENCK'S PULMONIC SYRUP,
SCHENCK'S SEA WEED TONIC,
SCHENCK'S MANDRAKE PILLS.

Are the only medicines that will cure Pulmonary Consumption.

Frequently medicines that will stop a cough will occasion the death of the patient; they lock up the liver, stop the circulation of the blood, hemorrhage follows, and in fact, they clog the action of the very organs that caused the cough.

Liver Complaint and Dyspepsia are the causes of two-thirds of the cases of Consumption. Many persons complain of a dull pain in the side, sometimes extended tongue, pain in the shoulder-blade, feelings of drowsiness and restlessness, the body lying heavily on the stomach, accompanied with acidity and belching up of wind.

These symptoms usually originate from a disordered condition of the stomach or torpid liver.

Persons are affected, if they take one or two heavy colds, and if the cough in these cases be suddenly checked, will find the stomach and liver clogged, relaxed, torpid and inactive, and almost before they are aware the lungs are a mass of sores, and ulcerated, the result will be death.

Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup is an expectorant which does not contain opium or anything calculated to check a cough suddenly.

Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic disolves the food, mixes with the gastric juices of the stomach, aids digestion, and creates a ravenous appetite.

When the bowels are costive, skin sallow, or the symptoms otherwise of a bilious tendency, Schenck's Mandrake Pills are required.

These medicines are prepared only by

J. H. SCHENCK & SON,
N. E. corner Sixth and Arch Streets, Phila.

And are for sale by all druggists and dealers.

The Markets.

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