

CARAT'S FIRE.—The term carat, or karat, originally designated an Abyssinian bean.

Being very uniform in size, and undergoing scarcely any loss by drying, they came to be used as the standard of weight, in Africa for gold, and in India for diamonds.

Each carat was divided into 4 grains, of which 74 are nearly equal to 72 grains Troy. This system of carats and grains is still used in the valuation of diamonds.

But in the case of gold, the term carat implies, not so much any actual weight, as a fractional division, of which 24 go to make a unit.

Twenty-four carats fine expresses the unity of pure gold, and signifies, not the specific weight of any given mass, but only that, in the 24 imaginary parts into which it may be supposed to be divided, there is no alloy.

The gold assayer takes his unit or integer of 12 grains Troy. This small quantity is most convenient for purposes of assay, and these particular numbers are used for convenience of calculation.

This 6 or 12 grains is called, by the English assayer, an assay pound, and, by him, divided into 24 carats, and each carat again into quarters and sixteenths.

The assayer of silver takes 18 to 25 grains Troy for his assay pound, and divides it into 12 ounces, each ounce into 20 pennyweights, and these again into half pennyweights—making, for the silver assay pound, 480 divisions or reports.

On the continent of Europe the division of the assay pound for gold is different from the English. To the English mind, the term carat expresses no given weight, but merely degrees of fineness, of which 24 indicates purity.

The carat is subdivided into quarters, and these again into eighths, making to each carat 24 parts, 75 of which represent pure gold.

These varying, complicated and arbitrary systems are the relic of an age which delighted in intricate and perplexing mysteries. They are gradually yielding before the scientific demand for uniform and universal formulae.

Eye Columbia Spy.

COLUMBIA, PA. SATURDAY, AUG. 13, 1859.

SEE NEW ADVERTISEMENTS OF A. M. RAMBO, ODD FELLOWS' HALL, IN TODAY'S PAPER.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.—We are authorized to announce JESSE LANDIS, Esq., as a candidate for District Attorney at the October election, subject to the decision of the People's County Convention.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.—We are authorized to announce JOSEPH W. FISHER, Esq., of Columbia, will be a candidate for District Attorney at the ensuing general election, subject to the decision of the People's County Convention.

Rev. Solomon Oswald, of York, will preach in the English Lutheran Church tomorrow (Sunday) morning and evening, at the usual hours.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We call attention to the advertisement of the ninth annual exhibition of this society, which will be found in to day's Spy.

CAMP MEETING.—Joseph List will run a canal boat to-morrow to Marietta for the accommodation of those desiring to attend the camp meeting near that place. It will start at 7 and 9 A. M., and 1.30 and 5.30 P. M. Fare 20 cents; or the round trip 30 cents. The trips will continue every day while the camp is held.

Some Plow.—Our neighbor of the Star of Thursday notices a large plum grown in Hellam township, measuring 61 inches, and weighing 15 ounces. Mr. Nicholas Springer submitted to our tooth a plum of the variety called "Rule's Golden Drop," which dwarfed the Star fruit considerably.

Fondrich's "Balmore Black In Chewing Tobacco," an article just introduced by that enterprising firm of Tobaccoists, Fondrich & Bro's, deserves the attention of chewers. It is the genuine article, without admixture of foreign impurities, and will satisfy the most delicate palate.

St. Charles Furnace.—The St. Charles Furnace was "blown in" on Wednesday evening and on Thursday the first casting was made. This is one of the largest and most successful establishments in our neighborhood, and will employ a large number of hands.

APPOINTMENT.—We learn that Samuel W. Black, Esq., formerly of this place has been appointed Superintendent of the Western Division of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad. Mr. Black admirably qualified for the place.

TEMPERANCE WOOD MEETING.—This meeting advertised for some weeks past, came off on Thursday last at Kligh's grove near Mountville. A large delegation left this place in the 9 o'clock train, together with a delegation from Marietta.

How Paddy Shot the Raven. Three men in a hall were sitting. One of them said to the other two, "I've better attend out on the road there. And set me down in or game. How do I see my way out of it?"

Our Water. Among the instances of past energy among our citizens are none more worthy of note than the introduction of water into Columbia. This was effected when the town was young and the population scanty, and the undertaking was one requiring nerve in the projectors and public spirit in the people generally.

Fawkes' Steam Plow.—On Saturday last we attended the exhibition of Fawkes' great Steam Plow, at the grounds of the Lancaster County Agricultural and Mechanical Society, near Lancaster.

Brothers and Sisters of Love and Charity.—This order, composed of colored people had a picnic on Thursday last, at Heise's woods. They assembled in their room over the Spy office, and after donning their regalia formed in procession.

Police Items. REPORTED BY OUR SPECIAL "MOCHARD." HEIRS AT LAW.—On Monday, 1st inst., Nathan Miller, of the Hill, made complaint before Justice Welsh that the connexion of his wife, Aunt Martha Loney, temporarily defunct, [Aunt M. went down for selling without license.] insisted upon inheriting the personal estate of that lamented decedent.

On the same day Martha was arrested and had a hearing. She positively denied all knowledge of the "kivers" in question, but unquestionable evidence of the sale being on hand she began to have a faint recollection that Robert Loney had deposited the articles in her hands for sale or barter.

A Rioter Healed.—Butch Taylor, who was one of the rioters on the Hill on the evening of 19th ult., and successfully eluded the vigilance of Richard, was finally cornered by that officer on the night of the 5th inst., and brought to the bar of the Blue Front. Esquire Welsh investigated the case and found Butch to have been a ringleader on the occasion referred to.

WIGS.—WIGS.—WIGS. Bathing the Wigs and Toppes surpass all. They are elegant, light, easy and durable. Fitting a charm—no turning up behind—no strinking of the head; indeed, this is the only establishment where these things are properly understood and made.

THE PILOT.—A tale of the sea. By J. Fenimore Cooper. 486 pages. Published by W. A. Townsend & Co., New York. This is the seventh volume of the beautiful illustrated edition of Cooper's Novels, now being issued monthly by W. A. Townsend & Co., New York.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW for July contains eight articles, in addition to the usual amount of contemporary literature which forms a valuable appendage to every number, viz: What Knowledge is of most Worth; Jowett and the Broad Church; The Influence of Local Causes on National Character; Life of a Conjuror; Government of India, its Liabilities and Resources; The Recollections of Alexander von Sternberg; The Roman Question; Austrian Intervention.

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