

Mining Investments.—Some authority—we believe the New York Times—has ventured the assertion that not one in a thousand of the silver or gold mines of the West has been profitable.

It is a rough guess, necessarily, because no one knows how many mines there are. If the assertion is made of developed mines it hardly does them justice; for, without knowing anything about it, we would be inclined to be stoutly of opinion that men were not so hopefully silly as to continue to put their money into the earth to get silver and gold out of it if their chance was only one in a thousand to be repaid.

Remember that mining is very expensive and very uncertain. Even the famous Comstock mines, that once produced so largely, are now but a source of expense. The Yellow Jacket ten years ago had paid over two million dollars in dividends; since then it has expended nearly that much in vainly driving its way three thousand feet deep into the earth.

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We are very sorry to find that our friend, Colonel Duffy, is obliged to confine himself so closely to his home. The river atmosphere is not very wholesome at this season, and prudent people would abandon it for the seashore or the mountains. To be sure there is great delight to the colonel in looking over his waving fields of broad-leaved tobacco, which now are getting ready for the reaper and thirty, ten and five per pound. But still the seductive tobacco should not keep the colonel at home, if he is the Lancaster county king of the growers. For the colonel has duties. To say nothing of those he owes to himself, his family and his health, he must remember that he is an officer of the state. He is Fish Commissioner; and the fish-basket criminals are about. That was the way we found out the colonel wasn't. We passed down the river on the railroad the other day and from the car windows gazed upon many fish baskets seductively fixed for the fish and put right under the honorable nose of the Honorable Fish Commissioner, if he should strid abroad for a railroad ride along his preserve on his free pass. The fishermen knew he was tied at home, of course, or they would not have ventured. What ties him we don't know, if it isn't the tobacco. We hope it is not the goat. But he is tied very fast, anyway. He must be. Just think of his anger when he reads what we now tell him of these rascally fishermen. We hope his family will take care that he does not get the news too suddenly. Break it to him gently and mean while the fishermen had better hurry out those baskets; for the Honorable Fish Commissioner will surely be after them before another sun sets.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the talk about the wrongs of Ireland and the distress of her people, they do not seem to be as badly off as the Germans, of whose hardships we seldom hear, but whom we see pouring into our country, without well understanding why they leave the happy and prosperous land we suppose they have behind them. To avoid the conscription is supposed to be one great cause of German emigration, but it won't explain the coming of whole families, nor does it show why the French, who are equally liable to military service, do not equally flee their country to avoid it. The statistics printed elsewhere tell of a great German outflow and its causes. Over two hundred thousand Germans came to these shores within the last year, and but seventy-two thousand Irish. The French immigration was inconsiderable. The Germans came to better their condition. Labor is cheap, work is scarce and profits are small. Capital earns a small recompense, and therefore, can pay but low wages. Business is lacking, money and workmen are abundant, and these two things, which we are accustomed here to think are the only essentials needed to establish prosperous business, do not effect it. Why, we do not understand; but evidently Germany needs more enlightened govern-

ment than it has. There is failure somewhere when the people are driven away from its soil because it affords them no means of comfortable livelihood.

The Examiner continues to applaud the late Major R. W. Shenk's official conduct, in the matter of the Belgian block pavements, for having "applied to the city just a little 'heroic treatment'"; and in the same article it calls on the city authorities to take cognizance of "the criminal carelessness of Contractor Schwebel in building a sewer on Water street."

The fact remains that months before Major Shenk was in councils the mayor set forth, in a message to councils, the advantages, practicality and estimated cost of Belgian block pavements for the streets. Major Shenk was "doubtless energetic in aiding the movement, but it is in bad taste for a newspaper to applaud that sort of 'heroic treatment' of a matter by a public official which consists of an utter disregard of the law and ordinances, that could only be checked by an appeal to the courts, where the chairman of the street committee of that day never dared to test the legality of that treatment.

The accounts of some palatial American homes, published on our first page, will teach foreign monarchs how the American citizen lives, summer and winter, by the sea and in the city.

OUR sprightly contemporary, the Pottsville Chronicle, proves by donning a new dress, enlarging, and other visible signs of inward grace, that it receives the patronage to which its enterprise and merits entitle it.

The Pope and Mr. Blaine have exchanged friendly and sympathetic messages about the president's critical condition. This seems to open the way for a renewal by the Rud-mouths of the story that Blaine wears a Catholic chain left by his dead mother.

ELEGANT fans are made of white and tinted ostrich feathers, powdered with gold and mounted with pearl, amber, tortoise shell or gold. The Cincinnati Enquirer saw, from afar, a fan of that sort which cost, with diamonds and settings, over \$1,000.

The rumor that Wm. H. Vanderbilt had quietly purchased the franchise of the New York underground railroad, to push the work vigorously to completion, when trains will run from the Battery to Forty-second street, at fares one or two cents below those of the air line overhead, induced Cyrus W. Field to order his brokers to sell out a large block of the New York Elevated stock for his account, which carried the price down from 105 to 99 1/2. The break at the time was a puzzle to the street but it is probably intelligible enough now.

SENATOR BECK is reported to have said with reference to the course that Democrats should take in case of the death of President Garfield, "It would be a time when love of country should rise above all party questions. As to my own course, I would be in favor of some conservative Republican, say Henry B. Anthony, of Rhode Island, for the position of president pro tem. of the Senate, and thus avoid any inducement for any insane person or political fanatic to desire the death of Mr. Arthur. In such a contingency, this would be a graceful recognition of the fact that, under the great calamity which has befallen the nation, the intensity of party spirit and the eagerness for spoils were for the time forgotten."

A Cool Suicide.—"Good-bye, dear, if I should die suddenly, do not take it hard." With this strange speech William Otto, a highly respectable farmer of Jackson township, Northumberland county, left his wife after dinner, went out to one of the fields where his boys were working and told them to stick to it and work hard, that he was going over to his father-in-law to get some seed wheat, and started in that direction. When he got to a large, shady cherry tree, between his farm and George Snyder's, he stopped, drew a seven-shooter from his pocket and placing it to his right ear he pulled the trigger and sent the leaden messenger of death through his brain.

THEOPHILUS FENN, Jr., has been married in Philadelphia, to Miss Susie K. Burr.

It is said that Judge HILTON is going to erect a "baronial castle" at Woodlawn, Saratoga.

Ex-Senator CONKLING, it is reported, has purchased Robinson's island, in the St. Lawrence, just below Thousand Islands park.

The Scranton Republican puts afloft the story that Judge BLACK once asked Buchanan if he ought to accept a duel challenge from Robert J. Walker, provoked by Black calling Walker a "fool."

In Long Branch, yesterday, the wife of the Hon. R. C. GRIGGS, president of the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad, died from blood-poisoning. Mrs. Griggs was very handsome and corpulent, and had in the last year taken eighteen bottles of anti-fat to reduce her weight.

A Western paper has "exclusive" information that a movement is progressing in official circles to have VEXOR, of Canada, to supersede General Hazen as chief of the signal service. Prominent military men and scientists are stated to be interested.

Colonel J. G. BENTON, of the ordnance department, commanding at the Springfield, Massachusetts, army, died yesterday morning of heart disease. He was a native of New Hampshire, and about 60 years of age. In 1860 he published a work on ordnance and gunnery, which is used as a text-book at West Point.

Dr. AGNEW does not agree with Dr. Atlee about malaria at the White House. He says: "There are no traces of malaria at the White House, nor could I find that anyone who had ever lived near the Executive Mansion had been affected with it in the past. The sick-room is perfectly comfortable and healthy."

A further charge of embezzling \$50,000, in addition to the amount previously stated, was preferred against Captain HOWGATE, in Washington, yesterday morning. It is believed further investigation will reveal more theft. Howgate was disbursing officer of the signal bureau for six years, and kept several establishments besides the one in which his wife was mistress.

Rev. WILLIAM FAULKNER BROWNE, chaplain of St. Joseph's hospital at Paterson, New Jersey, who has died of typhoid fever, aged 48 years, was a surgeon in the United States army and acted as surgeon in Hampton Roads during the Monitor and Merrimac engagement. Later he was examining surgeon at the Park barracks in New York. Leaving the army he went to Rome as correspondent for several newspapers.

JOHN POMEROY, one of the oldest and best knowers of the lake captains who took laudanum in Chicago on Sunday night with suicidal intent, was one of the first to demonstrate the feasibility of direct shipments from Chicago to Liverpool, having taken the Goldhunter through in 1858.

When the lakes were closed in winter he worked as a type setter on the Chicago daily papers, and paralysis and poverty drove him to suicide.

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