

### SAN MARINO.

The Queer Little Republic which Has Stood the Test of 1,300 Years—How It is Governed—Its Standing Army of Thirty Men—A Nation Without a Press.

La Republica di San Marino, the roots of whose history run down to the days of Charlemagne, lies about twelve miles southwest from Rimini, and about four miles from the shores of the Adriatic, in Italy. A correspondent writes:

The republic proper stretches over a territory seventeen miles long and about half that width, and has a population, all told, of about 6,000 people; the capital, where we were, having about 900 of them. They were governed by a council of sixty, which is a close corporation, nominally composed of twenty princes, twenty of the middle class, and twenty of the peasant class, but in point of fact, as I afterward learned—and, indeed, as might be inferred from the fact that they themselves filled all vacancies, and the people had no more to do with the choice of the members of congress—all were nobles and if you were to address one otherwise than as "nobilissimo," you had better not have addressed him at all. I gathered that the real distinction was that twenty were taken from the landed gentry, twenty from the town gentry, and twenty promiscuously from any part of the territory.

This council, independent of all human control from above or below, elects two executive officers, who are called captains-regent; it designates all executive committees, imposes taxes—in fact, conducts the government. The regents receive no pay—another evidence that San Marino is not a republic, after the Atlantic ideas at any rate.

My readers are doubtless already impatient to know something of the army, which for 1,300 years has defied the manifold elements of disorder that have been fatal to so many dynasties and dismembered so many larger and more populous territories in Europe. The military defense, then, of the republic of San Marino is committed to a regular army of thirty men, who are supposed to be always ready to respond to the call of honor or of patriotism.

A police consisting of five or six persons protects the property of the territory, and gives peaceful slumbers to its honest burghers. In emergencies the militia of the country may be called in aid of its unconquered legions. They have two judges, who are, however, required by law to be taken from without the territory, and are changed every three years. But all cases of appeal are decided by the court of causation, or review, in the neighboring cities of Bologna, Padua, Turin or wherever that tribunal may chance to be sitting at the time.

The currency in use among them, also, is that of the Italian government. They had once some coins, the equivalent in value of four cent—my host at the inn gave me two or three of them; but they were not coined in the republic. Their number was very restricted, and they are rarely to be met with except in the collections of numismatists.

It is certainly one of the eccentricities which distinguish San Marino from all other countries that it puts its litigation out, as some families put out their washing, and trades exclusively with the currency of foreign states. The country which buys and sells with a currency over which it has no control, and submits its differences to foreign tribunals for adjustment, gives pretty heavy bonds to keep the peace with its neighbors, whatever be the title it gives to its form of government.

The expenses of their government will not seem large to an American. They never exceed 25,000 francs—say \$5,000—army, navy, postoffice, education, prisons, police, diplomatic service, representation, all included. The revenue is raised out of the profits realized by the government from the purchase of some 600,000 pounds of tobacco in the year, and from the sale of about 800 sacks of salt, and a trifling stamp tax of three cents on notarial, judicial and other legal documents.

The health of the republic is looked after by one physician and one surgeon employed by the state, who are required to attend and prescribe for all who send for them, but who are not expected to resent the offer of a gratuity from those who can afford to pay for their advice. These functionaries receive \$500 a year each from the state. The judges receive the same. San Marino has not only never been afflicted with a newspaper, but no printing press has ever stood upon its territory. This is a limitation upon its capacity for manufacturing money which distinguishes it more than anything else from republics of lesser longevity.

### "I'm the Only Man on Your Side."

In one of the Western States a case was tried and at its termination the judge consulted the jury and they retired for deliberation. Hour after hour passed and no verdict was brought in. The judge's dinner was served and he became hungry and impatient. Upon inquiry he learned that one obstinate jurymen was holding out against eleven. That he could not stand, and he ordered the twelve men to be brought before him. He told them that in his charge to them he had so plainly stated the case and the law that the verdict ought to be unanimous, and the man who permitted his individual opinion to weigh against the judgment of eleven men of wisdom was unfit and unqualified ever again to act in the capacity of jurymen. At the end of this excited harangue a little sneaky voice came from one of the jurymen. He said: "Judge, with your honor allow me to say a word." Permission being given, he added: "May it please your honor, I am the only man on your side."

### Another Motor.

A new and giant motor, says the *American Engineer*, is again on the carpet, with a greater probability of success than had any of the wonderful inventions which were to revolutionize the engineering world. It hails from Pittsburgh. The method of its operation is the transmission of a powerful and quickly generated vapor from bisulphide of carbon and petroleum, from the chamber of a condenser to the boiler of an ordinary n. n. condensing steam engine. The boiler being filled with water heated to about 200 degrees, a pressure as high as 200 pounds per square inch is rapidly developed from the vapor thus generated, and is easily controlled. A tremendous energy is thus made available for driving engines. This new motor has been subjected to thoroughly practical tests by leading experts, and it is said, with promising results.

### The Fires of 1879.

During the past five years, according to the figures collected by the *Insurance Chronicle*, \$353,018,255 worth of property has been destroyed by fire in the United States. In 1875 the loss was \$78,102,285, in 1876 \$84,630,600, in 1877 \$68,265,900, in 1878 \$64,315,900, and in 1879 \$77,703,700. The last year, it will be seen, was unucky and only \$400,000 better than 1875, although in 1875 Virginia City, Nev., was visited by a blaze which swept a way over \$6,000,000 worth of property. The losses to insurance companies last year were in excess of the losses of any of the four previous years. These losses amounted in 1875 to \$39,325,400, in 1876 to \$34,374,500, in 1877 to \$39,398,900, in 1878 to \$36,575,900, and in 1879 to \$44,464,700. During the five years there were 55,576 fires. Poorly constructed buildings, carelessness on the part of occupants and incendiarism are the principal causes of fires.

Among the several States New York leads in the figures. In 1876 her loss was \$14,090,000, in 1877 \$11,456,400, in 1878 \$13,397,000, and in 1879 \$15,793,200. Pennsylvania comes next, with a total loss in the four years of \$28,123,500. Massachusetts lost \$20,991,300; Illinois \$14,432,200.

Of agricultural implements factories 33 were burned last year, 10 almshouses, 86 bakeries, 13 butcher shops, 30 billiard saloons, 111 blacksmith shops, 13 bookbinderies, 18 box factories, 42 breweries, 103 carpenter shops, 104 carriage factories, 20 cheese factories, 13 chemical works, 90 churches (of churches 58 were burned in 1878, 64 in 1877, 66 in 1876 and 77 in 1875), 9 theaters, 25 cigar factories, 10 coffin factories, 17 college buildings, 12 coal yards, 40 confectioneries, 33 cooper shops, 18 cotton mills, 13 cotton warehouses, 13 cotton houses, 17 distilleries, 23 drug stores (of drug stores, in the five years beginning with 1875, were burned respectively 114, 145, 150, 191 and 223), 20 drying houses, 11 dye works, 14 engine houses, 13 express offices, 34 flour goods stores, 58 feed stores, 170 flouring mills (a great increase over former years), 83 furniture factories, 153 cotton-gin houses, 10 glass factories, 50 grain elevators, 34 grain warehouses, 12 greenhouses, 77 grist mills, 470 retail and 11 wholesale country grocery stores, 31 harness factories, 13 hat factories, 384 hotels, 224 liquor stores, 10 beer saloons, 133 shoe factories, 61 ice houses, 70 iron foundries, 10 juries, 13 junk stores, 16 laundries (not one owned by a China man), 65 lumber yards, 43 machine shops, 11 mattress factories, 45 meat factories, 47 newspaper offices (an average number), 24 oil refineries, 12 oil tanks, 45 paint shops, 29 paper mills, 18 rag shops, 12 paste factories, 55 photographic galleries, 13 picture frame factories, 86 planing mills, 21 pork packing houses, 12 powder mills, 51 printing offices, 38 public halls, 67 railroad depots, 28 railroad repair shops, 12 railroad stables, 218 saw mills, 39 shingle mills, 28 sash factories, 169 restaurants, 58 school buildings, 13 slaughter houses, 46 shoe factories, 13 shoddy mills, 16 smoke houses, 23 stove factories, no stone yards, 10 sugar refineries, 46 tanneries, 15 steam boats, 23 tobacco factories, 27 tobacco barns, 24 tinmithies, 11 wheelwright shops, 10 wood-turning shops, and 30 wooden mills.

### Castle Garden.

A New York paper has a description of the "Battery," situated at the southern point of the city. The article says of Castle Garden, the queer-looking building where the emigrants are landed: It has not much of a castellated look, and any stranger would be more apt to pick it out for a cheap warehouse than for a place with such a high-sounding name as "Castle Garden, at the Battery." There is a good deal more of the castle about the building, however, than most people would suppose. The high wall around it conceals its lower story from the outside, leaving only the wooden upper portion exposed to view. Go in through one of the three or four gates, however, if you can get past the guard, and when once inside turn to the right a dozen yards or so, if one of the inside officers does not stop you, and you will see that Castle Garden is rightly named. What now forms the lower story of the round building is the wall of what was once a fort, or battery; a wall so heavy and thick, that it is a curiosity to see in these days of flimsy buildings. It is built of great brown stones, with portholes at regular intervals, tapering down toward the inside, where, instead of a cannon's mouth, a glass sash may now be seen. The glass may be seen, but nothing beyond it, unless the janitor has very lately taken it into his head to wash the windows. An upper story of boards has been added to this solid wall, a roof has been put on, a great number of little wings added, like wards in a hospital—and this is Castle Garden, where Pat first sets foot when he arrives from Ireland; Hans when he comes from Germany; our street-sweeping friends, the Italians, and all the other distinguished foreigners whose purses will not permit of their coming over in the cabin and eating suicidal pastry. The big room that they are ushered into, on a day when an emigrant steamer arrives, is worth walking all the way down from Harlem to see, to a man who has no corns. Some of the queerest looking people in the world come in here, and look wildly about them, and at length drop their bundles on the floor, sit down on them and light their pipes. Some of the men are dressed in leather breeches, and nearly all of them wear coats that might be stretched out a few inches longer without detriment. No pen of the male persuasion could describe the costumes of many of the women. When a few hundred of the emigrants flock in from one of the transfer-boats and open their bundles, and go to cooking their scanty dinners on the four stoves that are provided, they make a picture full of color and romance, and one that is much more romantic as seen from the spectators' balcony than from the midst of the characters. On a fair day, the walks surrounding Castle Garden are full of these emigrants. They lean against the wall in sunny places, and swim like bees. Presently they disappear, many of them going West, some North or South, and a good many remaining in this city and becoming aldermen. But one ship's load is hardly disposed of before another ship's load arrives, bringing members of Congress, tax commissioners, referees, and sometimes a judge or two.

A Baltimore barber lost confidence in the preliminary responsibility of a man whose beard he was shaving off, and demanded his pay when the job was half done. The man had no money, and was turned into the street, where the peculiarity of his beard—half clean and half covered with whiskers—drew a throng.

### FOR THE FAIR SEX.

#### Spring Millinery.

There will be very little change in the shapes of bonnets, and those of medium sizes, neither very large nor very small, are most seen at present. Poke shapes of the moderate sizes are very largely imported in all the various braids, such as Tuscan, chip, lace straw, English split straw, satin braids, and Leghorns. The creamy yellow Tuscan braids and the lustrous satin straws are very hand-some, and promise to be the leading fabrics. The new straws are open braids in beautiful lace-like designs, and appear to be much stronger than the frail straw laces formerly used. Sometimes the trim only is striped with this lace, while the crown is of more solid braid, such as chip or Tuscan. A special novelty is the cashmere effects given to these new straws by introducing colored threads in the lace-like designs; pale blue, heliotrope, and red threads are very effective when combined with the natural hue of the straw. There are also novelties of color given to chip hats to match the costume with which they are to be worn, and sometimes two shades of colored chip forms alternate stripes all around the bonnet; these are excellent for morning wear or for traveling bonnets in two shades of brown, beige, lavender, gray, or green. Black chip bonnets have merely the crown of chip, while the scoop brim and the curtain are formed of straw lace, which is heavily beaded with fine jet beads; sometimes old gold straw is arranged in stripes in the black chip bonnets.

Ribbons will be much used for trimming bonnets, and for this purpose they are shown in three shades, known to dealers as Nos. 7, 12 and 22, and varying from one and a half to three inches in breadth. Satin ribbons are shown in great variety, and are especially handsome when double-faced in the new way that makes the wrong side exactly like the right, or rather does away with a wrong side altogether, so that the ribbon may be turned and twisted in any fashion, which is a desirable thing and which economical in making bows, loops and rosettes. Striped ribbons are also shown in two shades of satin, or else in contrasting colors in most capricious arrangements, such as bronze with gold, or shining brown shades with gold, pink with blue, garnet with cardinal, or red with old gold. The new colors that are developed in these importations are Isabelle yellow—the historical Spanish color—palest brown, and new shades that have purple for their base, and recall the lilac, lavender, mauve, violet and heliotrope tints. For millinery purposes the old-fashioned lustering ribbons are revived; these are of the smooth silks which the French call taffetas, and are now shown with tape-like borders, or with feathery edges, in many of the styles used twenty years ago. They are very pretty in coachman's drab, argent and pheasant brown shades. Very soft satin duchesse, or *mercelline*, ribbons have changeable colors through the center, with a border stripe of full satin on the edges. Again, there are armure-trimmed ribbons that are double faced, satin and gros grain, with the stripe like a broken cord. The Oriental figured ribbons come in new quaint colors that are more nearly modeled after the Japanese than the cashmere colors of the winter. Very rich Gobelin ribbons are shown that appear to be literal copies of stripes of old tapestries, and there are polka-dotted and damasse ribbons of endless varieties that have but one thing in common, viz., the soft pliability that makes them easily twisted and turned into knots and bows. Experienced milliners write from Paris of a decided preference among designers for the pheasant brown shades that combine well with all shades of buff, such as Tuscan and Isabelle, and of the light purple tints. The soft silks for trimming the crowns of bonnets come in the twilled lustrous fabrics known as satin duchesse, or as satin sublime, and are represented in light cashmere combinations as well as in the new plain colors. Fichus and barbes of black or of white Spanish lace are to be used to drape summer bonnets, just as they have been seen during the winter on opera bonnets. A chapter might be written on the old-fashioned flowers that artistic dress-makers are making up of fine flowers, such as heliotrope, myosotis, mignonette, violets and pansies, with merely one or two large flowers to give the rich coloring required now by fashion.

Ostrich feathers come in the three small tips that represent the three nodding feathers of the Prince of Wales, and are now in different shades of one color rather than in the contrasting colors that were too much in the feather-duster style; these are very handsome when showing cream, Tuscan and Isabelle shades, or else graded from beige to pleasant brown, or from pearl to heliotrope. These nodding plumes are chosen for Tuscan and chip hats, while for the more full-dress lace bonnets are the light fluffy marabout feathers of a delicate hue, tipped on the edges with cashmere colors. For walking bonnets in turban shape, and for round hats, are stiff feathers—mounted breast feathers and wings—that pass around the front and sides of the crown, and entirely trim the hat in the way so popular during the winter. Pheasants' brown feathers and those of the Guinea-hen are used for these, while others combine the blue-green Lophophore and gold eyes of peacocks' feathers to form cashmere colors and Japanese combinations. Quantities of tiny green bugs and beetles are set about on these feathers, and again the feathers form butterflies, rosettes or thistles.—*Harper's Bazar.*

### In Our Grandmother's Day.

The large round-shaped reticule with drawstrings and carried on the arm to hold the handkerchief, purse and work, is only an old fashion revived, as are the large black satin aprons embroidered with flowers in black or in colors and trimmed with flounces of old lace or the deep knotted fringe. With these are worn long black mittens, mutton-leg sleeves, deep outside cuff and the deep round lace collars, that seem a relic of past ages. Fortunate are those who have only to go in the gutter and look through grandmother's stories the ancient hair-covered trunks. When the high tortoise comb is worn, necklet of

velvet and bracelets of the same, one can almost fancy they have before them a grandmother transformed—gone back to her first youth in complexion, bright eyes and dark hair, and only the dress remaining to proclaim the fact that our aged friend is still here. These ancient costumes are considered very stylish for afternoon costumes at home, or when invited out to "teas" and "coffees."

### Manner of Making Mourning Dresses.

The simplest designs used in making colored dresses are repeated in those worn as mourning. The coat basque, the round overskirt very simply draped, and the short round skirt, is the model for most costumes. For the deepest mourning a broad habit of crape is used for trimming the basque and both skirts, dispensing with all flounce-like plaitings on the lower skirt. The coat of covering the entire basque with crape, also all that part of the lower skirt visible below the overdress, is confined to widows, and is not even for them so generally adopted as it formerly was. There is a tendency to lighten the unwholesome heavy mourning attire lately worn in the somber English styles, yet to retain its simplicity and nun-like plainness; thus the neck of the dress is worn very high about the throat, the shoulder seams are short, the bust is not draped, and the beauty of the corsage depends upon its finish. Crape, however, is worn but a few months, and lustrous silks are chosen for dress from the first period of mourning. While paniers, sashes, fussy drapery, flounces and open throats are, of course, avoided, yet a dinner dress of mourning silk and crape is fashioned very much as a colored dress of silk and brocade would be. Thus the short basque and the front breadth are covered with English crape, and the flowing train is of the rich silk, with perhaps some panel revers of crape down the sides, and a knife-plaiting of the same on the edge. Very rich and appropriate suits for the street are made of Henrietta cloth or of imperial serge after the models in use for cloth costumes this winter; the basque is coat-shape and double-breasted, with a deep collar, cuffs and square pockets of crape. The skirt has a full straight back breadth without drapery, and is widely bordered with a band of bias crape, while in front is a deep round apron, much wrinkled, and falling some way below the waist in the side seams where the full straight back begins. The wrap with such a suit is a long coat-shaped garment made of the material of the dress, warmly lined, perhaps with fur, or else with faded silk of flannel. There are also figured cloths that are used for wraps with mourning dresses, and many of those have a deep collar and wide cuffs of black fur. A border of fur is not liked for mourning cloaks, as used in that way the fur is only a showy trimming, and not for comfort, and detracts from the severely simple look given by the deep collar and cuffs. Seal-skin cloaks are now worn in the deepest mourning, and furriers select those of the darkest hue for this purpose. The large circulars of cashmere cloth with fur lining are worn as carriage wraps by ladies in mourning.—*Harper's Bazar.*

### News and Notes for Women.

Mrs. Grant says that the prettiest girl seen in all her travels was at Reno, Nev., railroad station.

Allegria Eggleston, a young Brooklyn artist takes a portrait by only looking at the subject for a few minutes, and then draws a picture that every one recognizes.

Manchester, England, has a society of women painters to which the other sex is not admitted, not even at the yearly exhibition.

Miss M. E. Gage, daughter of the poetess, has established a ladies' exchange for mining stocks in New York. A generous Iowa lady, Mrs. Cordelia Miller, has given \$30,000 to the Garrett Biblical institute, at Evanston, Ill.

Madame de Witt has just completed her history of France, which is the sequel to her father's (M. Guizot) history. The widow of G. P. James, the novelist, is living at Eau Claire, Wis. She is now eighty years old, and is well cared for by her sons.

A London correspondent writes that American nationality is accepted in England as a presumption in favor of a lady singer's success.

There are nine ladies on the London school board.

Princess Alexandria, wife of the Prince of Wales, is somewhat deaf, and has ordered an American audiophone.

Lady Burdett-Coutts lately gave a tea party to over two hundred London cabmen and their wives as a means to induce the cabmen to treat their horses with kindness.

The lady principal of a Michigan school has resigned her position to commence the study of medicine.

The American Sunday school, or New York, has been presented with \$100,000 by Mrs. J. C. Green, of that city, the interest only to be available. This is to be devoted to "the development of Sunday-school literature of a high merit."

Mrs. Gladstone and Lady Roseberry attended all the Gladstone meetings at Edinburgh, and sat in front of the platform listening attentively to every word and occasionally nodding assent, which sight was said to be very pretty and interesting.

There was married recently in Detroit a damsel who had been several years employed in a large manufacturing establishment. Her marriage had been for some days a subject of pleasant congratulation by her employers and fellow employees. One day one of the proprietors, who always wears a "bed tick" apron in the factory, said to her, "if you will wear this apron on your wedding-dress when you are married I will make you a present of \$50."

"Yes," added the foreman, "and I'll give you \$10." The girl accepted the challenge, wore the apron, and pocketed her \$60.

Gambetta says that "if girls are not educated up to the level of the republic, the ideal republic will fall down to their notion of what it ought to be." That the best advisors he ever had, not alone as to the conduct of his private life, but in politics, were good women, whose minds were emancipated from sacerdotal tyranny, and it was of vital importance to the commonwealth that the fullest justice should be done to the girlhood of France.

"Kind words can never die." How bitterly does a man realize that terrible truth when he sees all the kindest words he ever saw in his life glaring at him from his snatched letters in a breach of promise suit.—*Huskeye.*

### Useful and Interesting.

There are 2,750 languages. Two persons die every second. The average human life is thirty-one years. Slow rivers flow four miles per hour. Rapid rivers flow seven miles per hour.

A moderate wind blows seven miles per hour. A storm moves thirty-six miles per hour. A hurricane moves eighty miles per hour. A rifle ball moves 1,000 miles per hour. Sound moves 743 miles per hour. Light moves 192,000 miles per hour. Electricity moves 288,000 miles per hour.

The first steamboat plied the Hudson in 1807. The first iron steamship was built in 1830. The first lucifer match was made in 1829. The first horse railroad was built in 1826-7. Gold was discovered in California in 1848.

The first use of a locomotive in this country was in 1829. The first printing press in the United States was introduced in 1629. The first almanac was printed by George Von Purbach in 1460.

Until 1776 cotton spinning was performed by the hand-spinning wheel. The first steam engine on this continent was brought from England in 1753. Measure 209 feet on each side and you will have a square acre within an inch. As acre contains 4,840 square yards. A square mile contains 640 acres. A mile is 5,280 feet or 1,760 yards in length. A fathom is six feet. A league is three miles. A Sabbath-day's journey is 1,155 yards (this is eighteen yards less than two-thirds of a mile).

A day's journey is thirty-three and one-eighth miles. A cubit is two feet. A great cubit is eleven feet. A hand (horse measure) is four inches. A palm is three inches. A span is ten and seven-eighths inches. A pace is three feet. A barrel of flour weighs 196 pounds. A barrel of pork weighs 200 pounds. A barrel of rice weighs 300 pounds. A barrel of powder weighs twenty-five pounds. A firkin of butter weighs fifty-six pounds. A tub of butter weighs eighty-four pounds.

The following are sold by weight per bushel: Wheat, beans and clover seed, sixty pounds per bushel. Corn, rye and faxseed, fifty-six pounds per bushel. Buckwheat, fifty-two pounds per bushel. Barley, forty-eight pounds per bushel. Oats, thirty-five pounds per bushel. Bran, thirty-five pounds per bushel. Timothy seed, forty-five pounds per bushel. Coarse salt, eighty-five pounds per bushel.

Historic Slang.

How common is the expression, "Oh! she is down in the dumps"—that is out of spirits. This is a very ancient slang phrase, and is supposed to be derived from "Dumps, King of Egypt, who built a pyramid and died of melancholy," so that the thieves and gypsies are not all to blame for having given us a few expressive words.

We next come upon a word full of pathetic meaning for many of us; it is the ghost that haunts and pursues us more or less throughout the year—it is the word "dun." It is a word of consequence, for it is at once a verb and a noun, and is derived from the Saxon word "dunan," to din or clamor. It owes its immortality—so tradition says—to having been the surname of one Joe Dun, a famous bailiff of Lincoln, in the reign of Henry VII., who was so active and dexterous in collecting bad debts that when any one became "slow to pay," the neighbors used to say, "Dun him"—that is, "send Dun after him."

"Draw it mild" and "Come it strong" have their origin in music, being the terms used by the leader of an orchestra when he wished his violin-players to play loudly or gently. From this they have passed into synonyms for exaggerators and boasters, who are requested either to moderate their statements or to astonish their audience.

The word "coach," in these days, is a familiar one, as parents know who have to employ tutors to assist their sons to swallow the regulation amount of "crum" necessary for competitive examination. The word is of university origin, and can boast of a logical etymology. It is a pun upon the term "getting on fast." To get on fast you must take a coach; you cannot get on fast in learning without a private tutor—ergo, a private tutor is a coach.

Another familiar word in university slang is "a regular brick"—that is, a jolly good fellow; and how the simile is logically deducted is amusing enough. A brick is deep-red, so a deep-read man is a brick. To read like a brick, is to read until you are deep-read. A deep-read man is, in university phrase, "a good man;" a good man is a "jolly fellow" with non-reading men—ergo, a jolly fellow is a "brick."

A Mine-Owner's Mistake.

A man now a prominent merchant of Virginia City won at poker an undeveloped gravel claim near Nevada City, worth in the neighborhood of two hundred dollars. His friends had the laugh on him for several days regarding his "investment," and asked him what proportion of the taxes he would pay in case they accepted the property as a gift. He finally got mad at their incessant guffing, and told them they would see he was not such a fool as they took him for before he got through with that mine. He then wrote to some capitalist acquaintances that he had a claim worth a fabulous sum, which he would sell for \$2,000, being hard pressed financially. The bank was next visited, \$500 worth of gold dust and nuggets bought, and the claim thoroughly "saled." When the intending purchasers arrived they prospecter the ground a little, and the panning out was attended by big clean-ups. They paid the \$2,000 the same day, and got possession of the ground. Work was at once begun, and they took out \$8,000 inside of three weeks. The "saler" was so taken aback that he did not smile for a month, and the parties to whom he confided his shrewdness at the time of his perpetration never met him to this day but they ask him if he has another gravel mine to sell.—*Nevada (Col.) Transcript.*

### FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

#### The Uses of the Potato.

In France the farina is largely used for culinary purposes. The famous gravies, sauces, and soups of France are largely indebted for their excellence to that source, and the bread and pastry equally so, while a great deal of the so-called cognac, imported into England from France, is distilled from the potato. Throughout Germany the same uses are common. In Poland the potato is a most extensive trade. "Stettin brandy," well known in commerce, is largely imported into England, and is sent from thence to many of our foreign possessions as the produce of the grape, and is placed on many a table of England as the same; while the fair ladies of our country perfume themselves with the spirit of potato under the designation of *eau de Cologne*. But there are other uses which this excellent is turned to abroad. After extracting the farina, the pulp is manufactured into instrumental articles, such as picture frames, snuff boxes, and several descriptions of toys, and the water that runs from it in the process of manufacture is a most valuable scourer. For perfectly cleansing woolens, and such like articles, it is the housewife's panacea; and if the washerwoman happens to have chilblains she becomes cured by the operation.

Few persons are aware of the great demand for potato flour, and of the almost unlimited extent of the market that can be found for this product, which is simply the dry evaporated pulp of the ordinary potato—the white and more free from black spots the better. It is used for sizing and other manufacturing purposes, and by precipitation and with the aid of acid is turned into starch. In Europe it meets with a large and increasing demand in its primitive state, as potato flour, and in Lancashire alone 20,000 tons are sold annually, and as many more would be taken if put on the market. When calcined it is used largely for silk dressing and other purposes. At present the quotation for potato flour in Liverpool is nearly double that of wheat flour. Consignments to Liverpool are solicited by a brokers there, who promise to take all that can be furnished.

During the Franco-German war the French government purchased all the farina it could secure and mixed it with wheat flour in "potato cakes" for the army. Farina at that time rose to \$200 a ton, and even the supply fell far short of the demand. Since then an increased amount of farina has been regularly consumed in France, and farina mills have correspondingly multiplied in that country. The manufacture of potato flour is so simple, and the results so methodical, that it requires very little experience to reach a satisfactory issue. The potatoes are first steeped in water from six to twelve hours to soften the dirt and other matter adhering, after which they are thoroughly washed by mechanical means with the aid of either steam or water power. They are then reduced to a pulp by a rasping or grinding process in a properly constructed mill. A small stream of water is caused to flow on the upper surface of the rasp or grinder, to keep it clean of accumulation of pulp. From the grinder the pulp falls into a washing machine, through which the farina is forced by revolving brushes, the coarser pulp being thrown out at lateral openings. The granules of farina pass into a trough, and are conducted to vats, where the farina is permitted to deposit. After the proper number of filtrations and depositions have occurred, until the last deposit, which is pure white farina, the latter becomes of sufficient consistency to cut into lumps, and place either unsupported or in conical wire cases to dry. The drying process can be accomplished in a building supplied with shelves, and capable of being heated from 60° to 212°, which is as high a temperature as it will require. The heating apparatus may be such as is most convenient. In Europe the farina is packed in 300 to 512 pound fine sacks, but flour barrels are said to be preferable, as the wood protects it from damage and allows it to be transported safely to the most distant regions.—*The Journal of Applied Science.*

Health Hint.

To make a mustard plaster that will draw well, but not blister, mix with the white of an egg instead of water or vinegar.

Fresh radishes, well masticated, and the various kinds of turnips, if digestion is strong enough for them, are good for gravel.

The following is recommended as a chilblain ointment: Take of lard nine ounces, oil of almonds three and a half ounces, white wax one and a half ounces, chaparral, powdered, one and a half ounces. Mix and apply to the chilblain.

The following liniment is said to be useful for rheumatism, lumbago, sprains, bruises, unbroken chilblains and insect bites: Take one raw egg, well beaten up, half a pint of vinegar, one ounce of spirits of turpentine, a quarter of an ounce of spirits of wine, and a quarter of an ounce of camphor. Beat these ingredients well up together, then put them in a bottle, cork it, and shake them for ten minutes, or till they are thoroughly mixed. Then cork very tightly, in order to exclude the air. For rheumatism in the head, rub the back of the head and behind the ears, and, for other complaints, the parts affected.

A Great Comet Discovered.

News comes from the Carbova observatory in South America that Dr. Gould, director of the observatory there, has discovered a great comet, which, in the somewhat obscure language of the dispatch, "is passing the sun in a northward direction." The only comet of short duration expected this year is Winnecke's, and that, according to the accepted calculations of its orbit, should be visible before the latter part of December next. Probably if Dr. Gould has really seen a great comet, it is a new visitor from the depths of space. If we are to be treated to such a celestial spectacle as those of our memory who saw the great comet of 1858, this generation may be considered peculiarly fortunate in that respect; for it is the lot of very few men to behold more than one such a sight in a lifetime. One of the most impressive things about these wondering visitors, which in former ages struck whole nations with terror, is the fact, which seems unquestionable, that they voyage from sun to sun and system to system, occupying, probably millions of years in the journey from one star to another.—*New York Sun.*

Species of the cactus plant, fifty feet high, that grow up like a cigar, and bear delicious fruit, have been discovered in Arizona Territory.